

START THE  
NEW YEAR  
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THE TIMES

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SATURDAY  
EDITION

# THE TIMES

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SATURDAY JANUARY 1 1994

Clinic denies 'racial engineering'

## Watchdog to report on designer baby

By NICK NUTTALL  
AND EMMA WILKINS

REPORT into the case of a black woman who wants to be implanted with an egg from a white donor at a British fertility clinic was ordered last night by the Government's watchdog on test-tube baby treatments.

The request from the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority came as the clinic at the centre of the controversy rejected accusations of racial engineering and doctors' leaders called for an updating of guidelines to keep pace with medical technology.

Hugh Whitall, deputy chief executive of the authority, said that any clinic found to be "flagrantly and persistently" breaking ethical ground rules would be shut down. "We have that ultimate sanction to take away their licence," he said. "But Dr Peter Brinsden, director of the Bourn Hall Clinic in

Advances in infertility treatments are highlighting profound differences over whether parents should be able to choose the characteristics of their child

Cambridge, said the procedure was necessary in this case because a donor from the woman's own Afro-Caribbean background could not be found. He dismissed suggestions that the woman, whose husband is of mixed race and who first went to the clinic four years ago, had specified that she wanted a child which was more white than black.

"Right at the very beginning, the woman said, 'Because my husband is of mixed race, I do not mind if the egg is from a white or black donor. We want a child we will love.' The father is of mixed race so the child will be of mixed race anyway," he said. "There is no question of genetic engineering. It is really only a matter of varying degrees of shades of black and white when the child is born," said Dr Brinsden.

But as concern intensified, Dr Fleur Fisher, head of the British Medical Association's ethics, science and information division, said: "I don't think that, either nationally or internationally, we have developed an adequate framework of ethical principles to support doctors who are helping patients with fertility problems." Doctors and society should debate the issue and the ethics should be decided by a national committee. "This is going to come to the fore more frequently. It is not merely the instance of race, as in this case, but there are other characteristics people will be able to select."

The Rt Rev Wilfred Wood, Bishop of Croydon and the Church of England's only black bishop, said children were not the property of individuals but gifts from God and should be treasured irrespective of their ethnic grouping. "This woman's desire to have a child is perfectly understandable and it does not matter what ethnic group the child belongs to."

The bishop said he would strongly oppose efforts to restrict trans-racial implants: "To say you should not implant the egg from a white woman into a black woman is nonsense. I cannot see how, if the process is legal and available, anyone could tell someone else that they are not allowed to avail themselves of the choice."

Dr Brinsden said the woman, who is in her forties, had been waiting for a suit-

able donor. Under a process known as genetic matching, the clinic had tried to find a black donor. But the case has demonstrated an acute shortage of egg donors from ethnic minorities. Because of the woman's advancing years and her desperation, it was considered ethical to use an ovum from a white donor.

"She is over 40 and under 48. We had one black donor ages ago who fell through. We have thought very carefully about this but no black eggs are available. We are desperately short of donor eggs of all colours and races, but particularly from ethnic [minority] communities," said Dr Brinsden.

The case of the British couple comes in the wake of news that a couple in Italy



Fisher called for ethics debate

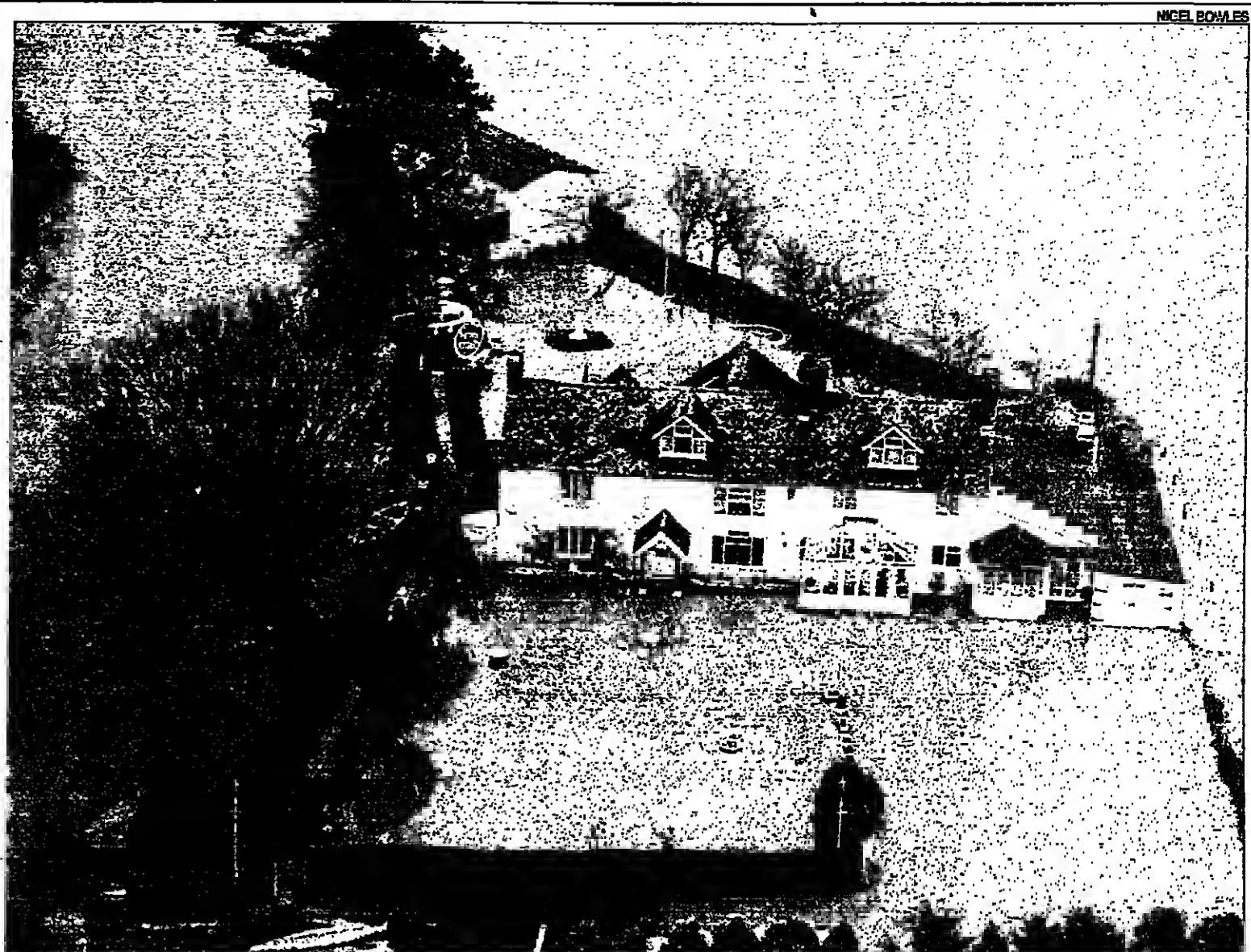
were given fertility treatment which involved the donation of white ova to a black woman because they wanted a white child. Maria Pia Garavaglia, the Italian Health Minister, called yesterday for a curb on artificial pregnancies. She said European health ministers would meet, at Britain's request, to attempt to draw up common guidelines on test-tube fertility techniques.

Her intervention also follows the controversy over a 59-year-old British woman who gave birth to twins on Christmas Day after treatment in Italy. A High Court judge in London yesterday rejected an attempt to lift the ban on identifying the woman.

Mr Justice Ewbank, who issued an injunction gagging the press and media at the time, said the woman was "inadequate".

The Sudanese Government said it had been insulted that Dr George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, had

Crucial questions, page 2  
Mary Ann Sieghart, page 14  
Leading article  
and Letters, page 15



The Anchor Inn at Barcombe, East Sussex, surrounded by water yesterday. Jaci Bover-White, the landlady, plans to ferry diners in by boat

## Forecasters warn of a soggy start to 1994

By KATE ALDERSON  
AND LIN JENKINS

FORECASTERS predicted a wet start to 1994 as fresh flood warnings were issued in seven counties of southern England. Emergency services were still struggling last night to salvage homes and rescue residents engulfed by waters up to 7ft high.

Six lookers who raided a high street supermarket ripped apart by floodwater in Sussex on Thursday night were arrested, with police searching for 15 further sus-

pects yesterday. At the end of the wettest year since 1981 the National Rivers Authority was forced to put many villages on red alert in Sussex and Kent, warning that high waters were imminent.

More than 2½ in of rain fell in parts of southern England in the space of 24 hours. Since Thursday floods have also hit Cornwall, Dorset, Hampshire, Gloucestershire and the Isle of Wight, submerging whole streets.

Four men and two boys were arrested when officers raced to Uckfield, Sussex,

where the River Uck burst its banks and swept through 30 shops in the High Street. Within minutes the entire stock, including thousands of pounds' worth of liquor, was washed into the high street where a crowd of around 300 people had spilled from the pubs to watch the spectacle. Some threw themselves into the floodwater and dived after boxes of goods, taking them to their cars.

Superintendent Royce Hipgrave of Sussex Police said: "There were some armed with shopping trolleys

because they couldn't carry all that they wanted in their hands."

Firemen on the Isle of Wight dealt with more than 400 flood calls, forced to use every available fire engine, including three of their reserve fleet.

Constant heavy rain left homes flooded up to first floor level in Kent. As the Tese, Lesser Tese and Beul rivers burst their banks residents in the Lamberhurst area were evacuated from their homes and into church halls.

In Cornwall a wall of water up to 7ft deep ripped through the narrow streets of the fishing village of Polperro, causing hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of damage. At Barnham, near Bognor Regis, more than 100 people were rescued by the Selsey and Shoreham inshore lifeboats. In Hampshire, 2 inches of rain fell in 24 hours in Southsea, almost as much as the town's normal December rainfall.

Forecast, page 18

## Four die in gun attack on bar

FROM RAY KENNEDY

THOUSANDS of revelers set out in South Africa last night amid fears that an armed attack on a Cape Town bar late on Thursday, in which four young people were killed and at least five injured, could unleash a new year of savage, indiscriminate violence as the country prepares for its first fully democratic election.

Two young white women and an Indian girl were killed when five black gunmen opened fire with automatic weapons into the crowded Heidelberg bar and restaurant, a popular nightspot for young people of all races. The owner of a restaurant was shot dead outside as he ran to see what was going on.

At least five young men, four whites and one coloured, were wounded. Police found more than 50 spent cartridge cases.

Two black extremist organisations claimed responsibility for the attack which was similar to the massacre last July on worshippers in St James's church in Kenilworth, Cape Town, which left 12 people dead and 29 injured. In telephone calls to the South African Press Continued on page 2, col 5

## Britain gives Sudan four days to explain expulsion

By DAVID WATTS

THE possibility of Britain expelling the Sudanese ambassador loomed large last night after the Foreign Office gave Khartoum four days to reconsider its own expulsion of the British ambassador.

Abdul Rahman Bakhit, Sudan's Charge d'Affaires in London, was summoned to a meeting yesterday with Sir Michael Burton, head of the Foreign Office's Middle East and North Africa Department, and told that Khartoum's explanation for expelling the ambassador Peter Streams was "inadequate".

The Sudanese Government said it had been insulted that Dr George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, had

refused to stay anywhere in the capital other than the British embassy during his current visit. But the Archbishop's spokesman insisted it was clear that Khartoum wanted to control his movements during his tour of the Government-held southern city of Juba and the party-Christian Nuba region.

Though the Foreign Office says it wants to contain the diplomatic row — not least because of the hundreds of British aid workers in Sudan — there are indications that the fundamentalist government in Khartoum will not back down.

Sudan gained independence from Britain on January 1,

1956, and London's pro-active attitude on human rights there has irritated the Government of President al-Bashir at a time when it has been introducing sharia law and strengthening its ties with the Muslim world, notably with Iran, which is said to have sent Revolutionary Guards to fight in the civil war.

Intelligence sources have claimed that the Bashir regime holds training camps for Middle East terrorist groups. Washington has blacklisted Sudan for sponsoring terrorism after the New York World Trade Centre bomb attack in February.

Carey took decision, page 13

## Macmillan blamed MI5 for Profumo

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA

HAROLD Macmillan's government blamed its own security services for failing to nip the 1963 Profumo scandal in the bud, according to secret documents released today under the 30-year rule.

The resignation in June 1963 of John Profumo, the War Minister, after he lied to the Commons about his affair with Christine Keeler, rocked Macmillan's administration. Her connection with Yevgeny Ivanov, a Soviet naval attaché, via Dr Stephen Ward, the society osteopath and self-styled spy, was said to be a serious threat to national security. All but a few of the classified files on the affair become public today, revealing Macmillan's dawning realisation



John and Valerie Profumo after their wedding in 1954

that his intelligence officers had failed him again. Relations between MI5 and Downing Street were poor after several security breaches but Macmillan was at first confident that his staff had handled Profumo's link with Ward competently. In a confidential letter on May 30 to Harold Wilson, Leader of the

Opposition, he wrote: "I am sure in my own mind that the security aspect of the Ward case has been fully and efficiently watched".

Ten days later, however, Macmillan's private secretary, Tim Bligh, warned him that the way in which MI5 had dealt with Ward "needs further probing". It is

rather disturbing that the security authorities knew in June 1961 that Stephen Ward was suspected of being involved in the 'call girl racket'. Lord Dilhorne, the Lord Chancellor, was instructed to make discreet enquiries.

His report, delivered to the Cabinet on June 14, three months before publication of Lord Denning's official enquiry, found that the security services had been guilty of an "error of judgment" in handling the crisis.

His most telling criticism was that MI5 had failed to react to Miss Keeler's statement to police that Ward had asked her to obtain nuclear secrets from Profumo.

1963 papers, page 4, 5  
Edward Heath, page 14  
Leading article, page 15

## Lockerbie orphan dies on holiday

By JOHN VINCENT

A MAN who lost his parents and ten-year-old sister in the Lockerbie air disaster five years ago has died in Thailand. David Flannigan, 23, choked to death in a beach resort hotel at Pattaya.

Mr Flannigan adopted a flamboyant lifestyle after receiving £1 million in compensation for the loss of his family, spending much of the money on failed businesses, holidays, alcohol and drugs.

A spokesman for the Lockerbie Support Group said last night: "Sadly it is by no means unique. There have been a number of stress-related deaths since 1988."

Black sheep, page 3

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## Columnist who cried 'vote Tory' savages Government

By Alice Thomson  
Political Reporter

PAUL Johnson, the columnist who begged the country to vote Conservative at the last election, yesterday launched a scathing attack on the Prime Minister and accused his "treacherous" Government of systematic and deliberate deception.

While John Major has called for pessimists to be put in their box, Mr Johnson has written his own missive in *The*

*Spectator* that goes far beyond mere pessimism.

Calling Mr Major's Government "the most disruptive of my lifetime", Mr Johnson said it was "born in treachery, surviving by subterfuge, double-dealing and fraud, Janus-faced and brazen, slippery and underhand, a dismaying blend of incompetence and low cunning, doomed to end in shame and recrimination".

His vitriolic abuse ended in a new year's curse: "I wish it the worst possible ill-fortune

in 1994 and trust that come the summer, we shall have seen the back of it."

In an article far more biting than John Smith's criticism of the Conservatives in his new year message, Mr Johnson ridiculed the Prime Minister's belief that Britain was on the road to more jobs and prosperity.

He said Mr Major stood for no principle, belief or ideal and that the transport minister Steven Norris — "a former used-car salesman, discovered

juggling with the affections of no less than five mistresses" — was the archetypal member of the Major Government.

There are only three gentlemen in the Cabinet, according to Mr Johnson. Most politicians, he said, are seen by the country as "shifty cynics, steeped in mendacity, their fingers itching towards the till".

He also accused the Prime Minister of "telling whoppers" over negotiations with the IRA. "Throughout the 19th

and for most of the 20th century, the reputation of British statesmen for veracity was their greatest strength," he said.

Mr Johnson, a prolific writer, was editor of *The New Statesman* and a well-known left-wing commentator. After a change of heart in the mid-seventies he became a zealous right-wing polemicist. His adoration of Baroness Thatcher was unmatched.

A Downing Street spokesman said there would be no

response to Mr Johnson's message. One loyal back-bench Tory said: "They didn't have to lie in the last century because they weren't constantly being bombarded with questions. No one would have dared to ask Disraeli whether he was having an affair."

"Paul Johnson is the epitome of the class-ridden society the Prime Minister wants to get rid of. He is rooted in a former age while this Government is doing a very, very good job in this age."

## Major rounds on pessimists and hails low income tax

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

THE Prime Minister turned on Britain's pessimists last night and called for renewed confidence in a new year message that virtually ruled out rises in income tax.

John Major forecast a year of strengthening recovery and steady growth in jobs as the main parties made taxation the battleground for a period that will be dominated by the mid-term test of the elections to the European parliament.

John Smith, the Labour Leader, used his new year message to deliver a warning that 95 per cent of households would be worse off in 1994 because of higher taxes.

Paddy Ashdown repeated his pledge that the Liberal Democrats would put an extra 1p on income tax to pay for improvements in education. After his most difficult year as party leader, Mr Major appeared to accept that by increasing taxes in the past two Budgets the Government had handed its opponents a damaging weapon. In a letter to constituency chairmen, Mr Major, while defending his efforts to balance the books, emphasised the Government's record on income tax, and went further than before in discounting future rises.

"Although we have had to raise revenue we have not put up income tax rates. Conservatives believe it is better to leave people with as much as possible of what they earn so that they — and not the State — can choose how to spend it."

In a modification of previous claims that the Tories are the party of "low taxation", Mr Major said: "The Conservative party remains the party of the lowest possible tax, the party of low income tax and the only party whose instinct is to cut tax and leave money with individuals and families and not take it for the State."

Mr Major said Britain was

leading Europe out of recession and must build on the advantages that gave it "time to put the pessimists in their box", he said.

He added: "After a difficult period for many people, we now have a tremendous opportunity before us. We are seeing stronger-than-expected growth combined with lower-than-expected inflation."

He repeated the Government's determination to take tough measures against crime and return to traditional teaching methods. Children had to learn at school the basic skills they would need in later life. They also had "to learn self-respect, respect for others and respect for authority."

It was up to Sinn Féin to respond to the Anglo-Irish peace initiative, he said. "There is no excuse for them not to choose the path to democracy."

In 1993, Mr Smith said: "The weakness of the economy and the damaging effect of short-sighted and irresponsible government policies brought hardship and distress to millions of families."

"Sadly, people are going to face higher taxes and bills in 1994... As many as 95 per cent of households will be worse off next year because of higher taxes." He said cutting people's spending power would "weaken recovery and undermine confidence at an extremely critical time. But while taking more from people in taxes, the Government is wasting taxpayers' money on unnecessary reforms in our public services."

In his message, Mr Ashdown said he hoped it would be recognised that "Britain's most valuable renewable resource is its people, and that well-resourced, high-quality education and training for all is the key if we are to meet the challenges that face us."



Peter Brinsdon, left, is the director of Bourn Hall, the fertility clinic near Cambridge that is at the centre of the dispute over a black woman who wants to be implanted with an egg from a white donor. The clinic, right, was opened in 1980 in a Jacobean country house which dates from 1602 and is set in 22 acres. Its facilities,



including an operating theatre and a laboratory, were greatly enlarged in 1986, but the clinic retains the air of an English country house. More than 15,000 couples have come up the long drive to Bourn Hall for fertility treatment since the clinic was opened by Patrick Steptoe and Professor Robert Edwards. A single course of

treatment costs between £2,500 and £3,000 and the various courses have produced about 3,000 babies. It was the first and best known of 62 similar clinics throughout Britain now inspected annually and regulated by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) set up by Parliament in 1991.

## How medicine conquers infertility

Who is eligible for infertility treatment?

Couples who, after about a year of trying to have a baby naturally, are referred by their doctor for tests.

About one in ten couples has difficulty conceiving a child.

What happens?

The tests assess if the woman is ovulating normally and if her fallopian tubes, the channels down which an egg passes to the womb, are damaged by infection. The man's sperm will often be assessed to see if he is producing enough. Other tests will see if the mucus of the woman's womb may be rejecting the sperm.

At this stage surgery may be carried out to unblock the tubes, or hormones given to assist ovulation, to improve the chances of a natural conception. What if surgery or drugs cannot help?

The couple may seek help from one of more than 60 private clinics specialising in the infertility treatment called

As controversy grows over infertility treatment, Nick Nuttall looks at the rules that face those desperate for a child

in-vitro fertilisation. Again, drugs are given to boost the level of ovulation and these eggs are collected.

The father's sperm is collected and used to fertilise eggs outside the woman's body to create a so-called test-tube baby. The fertilised egg is then inserted into the woman's womb to develop naturally.

What if that fails?

More than 20 clinics in the United Kingdom, about eight of which are National Health Service centres, specialise in egg donation. The egg, which must be donated voluntarily to the clinic, is then fertilised by the father's sperm and put into the infertile woman's womb.

Where do these eggs come from? It is illegal in Britain to trade in human eggs and sperm, so the donation is

voluntary. Often donors are women who already have families and are planning to be sterilised but they can also be friends and relations.

Eggs are harder to find than sperm. Sperm can be frozen for future use but eggs cannot.

Records of the donor's height, weight, eye colour, skin type, race and social details are held by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, which licenses the clinics and advises the Government on ethical issues.

Can a couple choose a donor who is a Nobel prize-winner or pick the sex of their child?

Under recent guidance from the authority it is illegal to pick the sex of a child.

Couples cannot specify the IQ of the donor but clinics ensure that donated eggs are from people with average or

above-average intelligence. How successful is infertility treatment?

The latest figures show that about 13,000 infertility treatments are carried out in the United Kingdom every year.

The success rate is around 14 per cent. The success rate for egg donation, which accounted for approximately 900 of the treatments, is slightly higher.

How much do the treatments cost privately?

About £2,500 for either routine infertility treatment or egg donation.

How old can a woman be before she is considered ineligible for treatment?

There is no law covering this aspect, but most clinics will not consider anyone for egg donation who is not menstruating or who is over 42 years old. The oldest woman to undergo such treatment in Britain is thought to be 46.

Leading article and Letters, page 15

## Bishop accuses critics of misplaced faith

The Bishop of Durham, who has recently cast doubt on Virgin Birth, the Resurrection, Hell and the Nativity, last night attacked his critics for their "misplaced faith". The Right Reverend David Jenkins used his final new year broadcast before retirement to round on the many traditional Christians who have condemned his pronouncements.

Among his recent critics is the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, who this Christmas rebuked the Bishop for declaring that the Three Wise Men and the Star of Bethlehem were myths. Dr Jenkins was in unrepentant mood in *The New Year Meditation* on BBC Radio 4, which ended as Big Ben's chimes heralded 1994 at midnight. He renewed his attacks on his critics, who come from the traditional wings of the Church of England and the Conservative Party. He said they were "would-be believers who are putting misplaced faith in particular interpretations of central beliefs". He chose the actor and homosexual rights campaigner Michael Cashman to read his chosen passages.

## Sophie's choice of '93

Sophie and Alexander were the most popular first names of babies listed in the birth columns of *The Times* this year. The results were compiled from 2,029 girls and 2,247 boys. After Alexander came Thomas, with James third. The fourth most popular boy's name was William, followed by Charles, George, Henry, Edward, Oliver and Nicholas. Sophie topped the list for girls' names for the second year running, closely followed by Olivia. Third choice for girls was Emily, followed by Alice, Charlotte, Eleanor, Lucy, Emma, Elizabeth, Georgina and Harriet.

## Man beaten to death

A man was beaten to death as he scattered his father's ashes in the front garden of his home in Nechells, Birmingham. Tom Spence, 47, was killed with a pick axe handle on Thursday. Pat Cornell, his fiancée, threw a garden tool at the attacker but he continued to hit Mr Spence. West Midlands police said yesterday that they wanted to trace Lambert Small, a neighbour. Det Chief Insp Ollie Duggan said: "We have strong indications that he may be mentally unstable. We will deal with him sympathetically, and afford him any medical attention he may need."

## Deception charges

Two brothers charged in connection with the murder of two Department of Transport inspectors are facing new charges. Thomas and Walter Bourke, of Bramhall, Stockport, were charged with conspiring with three other men to obtain £15,000 by deception from Margaret Coates. They are also accused of a blackmail offence in February.

## Race attack youth on TV

Quaddus Ali, a 17-year-old Asian who was left in a coma by white youths who attacked him in east London in September, appeared on Carlton Television's *London Tonight* yesterday. Mr Ali, left, can speak only a few words and will need several months of speech therapy and physiotherapy. After the attack, which provoked rioting, a man aged 21 was charged with attempted murder.



## Independent board split

The directors of Newspaper Publishing, owner of *The Independent* and the *Independent on Sunday*, are split over the best way of raising fresh capital. Staff were told in a letter last night that Andreas Whittam-Smith, editor of *The Independent*, had won support from half of the board for a plan in which a minority stake would be offered to another British newspaper group. The letter, from Ian Hay Davison, the chairman, is the first admission of a rift and follows calls from journalists for greater openness about negotiations on their future. Possible partners include *The Daily Telegraph*, *Mirror Group Newspapers* and *United Newspapers*.

## THERE IS ONLY ONE SALE PREVIEW.

On Saturday, 1st January an exclusive Harrods Account Customers Sale Preview Day will be held in all Furniture and Carpet Departments on the Third Floor and in Radio and TV and Major Household Appliances on the Second Floor. This will enable all Account Customers to view in advance some of the bargains on offer when the sale begins on Wednesday 5th January. Harrods Account Customers will be able to order certain sale goods prior to the start of the sale and then take advantage of the extra 10% saving on the Account Customer Day on 8th January.

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## Watchdog to report on designer baby case

Continued from page 1 request of the mother's boss after the birth, refused a request by *The Sun*, *News of the World* and *Today* newspapers to lift the injunction. He said: "There is no public interest, merely curiosity in seeking to be able to name the parents of the children and every reason to fear that if the injunction is lifted the children's welfare will be detrimentally affected."

In the Bourn Hall case, Dr Brinsdon said that if the couple's chief concern had been skin colour they would have been rejected. "We have had that already with a Pakistani couple who wanted a blond-haired, blue-eyed egg donor."

In the Italian case, where the father was of "white European" origin, the ovum is believed to have been purchased in America. In Britain, trading in human sperm and ova is illegal under the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act and so they are donated to banks voluntarily.

Churches and doctors' organisations have raised fears that couples may demand "designer babies" whose genetic backgrounds are picked to fit misplaced racial or intellectual aspirations.

Dame Jill Knight, the chairwoman of the Conservative backbench health committee, said that choosing the ethnic identity of children was both horrible and unacceptable. "This is plain and unvarnished genetic engineering."

Mary Ann Sieghart, page 14  
Leading article and Letters, page 15

## Four killed in South African bar attack

Continued from page 1 Association, callers claiming to represent the Azanian People's Liberation Army (APLA), the armed wing of the Pan Africanist Congress, and the Azanian National Liberation Army of the Black Consciousness Movement both claimed responsibility.

The PAC, which agreed at the beginning of December to a moratorium on armed struggle with the South African government and has said it will contest the election, said it regretted the attack. The caller was not known to the organisation, it said, and added that APLA's targets were police and defence force members. APLA has previously claimed responsibility for attacks on civilians.

At least five gunmen, armed with R4 semi-automatic rifles, the South African army's standard issue, attacked the Heidelberg bar about ten minutes before midnight, shortly before closing time. It was packed with about 60 people.

Before they sprayed it with bullets, the attackers fired a rifle grenade with nails taped to it into the bar but it failed to detonate. Had it gone off, police said, the toll of dead and injured would have been far higher.

President de Klerk described the attack as barbaric and said it was clearly an attempt to prevent the establishment of truly representative government. The African National Congress called it "naked terrorism", but added that similar attacks in townships when the victims were black were "virtually dismissed as routine."

## Saving lives with salt and sugar

THIS YEAR, Save the Children is seeking to reduce the number of young lives lost from preventable diseases.

Over 13,000 children die from diarrhoea every day, many in developing countries.

Yet according to Nicholas Hinton, the charity's Director General, many of these lives could be saved for as little as 10 pence, the cost of a sachet of Oral Rehydration Salts.

The salts, a simple mixture of sodium and sugar, prevent children from dehydrating, the most common cause of death from acute diarrhoea. Over the past few years, the effectiveness of these salts has been proven as they have helped to save thousands of lives.

Hinton continues: "The sachets cost as little as 10 pence and are simple to use which makes them easy to include in our health programmes."

Save the Children's appeal aims to raise funds to buy more Oral Rehydration Salts and other vital healthcare resources and send them to children most in need.

Hinton adds: "Just £10 can



A simple solution can save thousands of young lives each year. Photo by MIKE WELLS.

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Or charge my: ☐ Access ☐ Diners Club ☐ Account No. \_\_\_\_\_ Card Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Visa ☐ American Express ☐ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Save the Children

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# 'Black sheep' took to drink and drugs when air disaster killed his family

## Lockerbie orphan found dead after blowing £1m payout

By TONY DAWE

A YOUNG man orphaned by the Lockerbie disaster has died in a beach hotel in Thailand after spending much of his £1 million compensation on drink, drugs and failed businesses.

David Flannigan, 23, choked to death. He had never recovered from the shock of the Pan Am crash which killed his parents and young sister five days before a planned family reunion.

His death has left his brother Steven as the only member of the family still alive. Ten minutes before a fuel tank from the exploding jet crashed on the family home, Steven had wheeled a bicycle belonging to his sister Joanne, 10, to a neighbour's house to borrow tools to repair it.

Steven, now 19, was the first to be told of his brother's death and contacted the Foreign Office for help. He was making arrangements yesterday for the body to be flown to Britain.

An inquest will be held but is expected to be a formality. The Foreign Office said that there appeared to be no mysterious circumstances. Mr Flannigan had vomited during the

night and choked to death. He was found by a friend on holiday with him in the beach resort of Pattaya.

His undignified death brought to an end an unhappy life. He had left the family home at 17 after a series of arguments with his father Tom and settled in Blackpool, where he worked as a paint sprayer.

He missed his parents, as well as his brother and sister, and arranged a reconciliation for Boxing Day 1988. Five days before it could take place, Pan Am flight 103 exploded over Lockerbie and crashed on to the town. Joanne's body was recovered from the pit where the house had once stood. His parents were never found.

True to his "black sheep" image, Mr Flannigan hired a car without permission to drive home and attended his sister's funeral with his brother. He said at the time: "What makes it all the worse is that I was so looking forward to getting back together with mum and dad. I had been away for a few years because we didn't get on but recently we had been getting closer."

"I used to write to them and

phone occasionally. A few months ago, I decided this was the Christmas we would all be as one big family."

Mr Flannigan returned to Blackpool and started drinking heavily. He adopted an increasingly flamboyant lifestyle after receiving £1 million from Pan Am in 1990. The sum was part of a £12 million settlement with relatives of the 13 people killed on the ground. His younger brother received £2.1 million.

He put some of the money into businesses, pubs and nightclubs in Blackpool but spent much of it on drink. He took holidays abroad and bought his own house and cars. In March 1991, he was fined £50 after causing a disturbance outside a chip shop following a drinking session in which he was said to have downed 15 rums.

A close friend said last night: "The psychological consequences and scars were always going to be with him. It overshadowed him for five years. He would hit highs and lows and, when he was down, he called his money cursed and said it wasn't doing him any good."



David Flannigan: undignified death in Thai beach hotel ended an unhappy life

## Suburban houses attacked in ram raids

By JOHN VINCENT

TEENAGE ram-raiders are attacking private homes in a frightening new twist to the latest crime craze.

Yesterday, after at least a dozen robberies in north Bristol alone, police said there was "little that householders could do" to protect themselves against the menace.

One victim was asleep in bed when a car smashed in his front door. The looters also struck in daylight, choosing suburban homes while the occupants are at work.

Prime targets are houses with short driveways so the ramraiders can quickly drive to safety. Packs of three or four youths smash a corner of the boot into the front door before rushing in to take valuables such as electrical equipment.

Christopher Wise, an engineer, of Stoke Gifford, Bristol, was out shopping with his family when his home was raided. Thieves stole a television and stereo worth more than £1,000 and caused £300 damage to the front door.

"Mr Wise, 42, said yesterday: 'We came back to find the door hanging off its hinges. Nobody saw a thing. They just raced in and raced off.'"

In Gloucester, a group of thieves called "The Sixty-Second Gang" have carried out a spate of raids by kicking down front doors and snatching electrical gear before speeding away in stolen cars.

## Motorist bitten by robber with HIV

By A STAFF REPORTER

A MOTORIST who was bitten on the hand when he tackled an armed robber at a garage has learnt that the man is HIV positive.

Ken Spinks, 51, has been given medical tests to determine whether he has the virus, but he must wait three months for the results. It is rare, however, for HIV to be transmitted by saliva.

Mr Spinks, a builder from Great Dunmow, Essex, confronted the gunman as he was holding up Gables service station in the town on Tuesday. The man, who had an imitation revolver, bit him during the struggle but Mr Spinks managed to hold him down until police arrived.

Three other garages in the area had been robbed on the same day.

The suspect, who police believe might have Aids, is being held at a secure psychiatric hospital after voluntarily being committed under the Mental Health Act. The Crown Prosecution Service has yet to decide whether he is mentally fit enough to be charged.

Mr Spinks' wife Josephine said last night: "It was a shock when the police told us that the raider was HIV positive. It is worrying but there is nothing we can do until we get the results of the tests."

"Ken had to go to hospital because it was deep bite. You could see the teeth marks quite clearly and his skin was so torn they couldn't put any stitches in."

"We knew several days later that the chap was HIV positive but the police also told us there was little chance of Ken being infected. The virus is not easily passed on by saliva. The only problem is if the man himself was bleeding and Ken came into contact with his blood."

"I told Ken I wished he had just turned and walked away, or even held the door open for the raider. But that's not the sort of man he is—he couldn't just stand by and watch someone being robbed."

A member of the garage's staff praised Mr Spinks for his bravery. "It's terrible what happened to him but we are all praying that he won't get Aids."

## Backlash feared after IRA killing

By NICHOLAS WAIT  
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

SECURITY sources in Northern Ireland said yesterday they feared that Loyalist paramilitaries would resume their attacks on Roman Catholics following the IRA's murder of a soldier on Thursday.

The soldier killed by an IRA sniper in Armagh was named yesterday as Daniel Blinco, 22, from Oswaldtwistle, Lancashire. He was a private in the Grenadier Guards.

Guardian Blinco joined the army three years ago, passed out as the finest recruit of his intake, and was described by his local recruiting office in Derby, where he helped out, as a model guardsman. In 1992 he was posted to the Queen's Company.

His grandfather, Reg Blinco, said yesterday that the peace talks had raised the family's hopes of safety for the troops. He spoke of the worry that every parent felt when a son was posted to Northern Ireland, adding: "I did hope the peace initiative could mean no more soldiers would be placed in that danger."

The outlawed Ulster Freedom Fighters, who have not launched any sectarian attacks since December 13, are understood to have taken the IRA sniper attack in Crossmaglen, south Armagh, as a rejection of the Anglo-Irish declaration. The UFF and the Ulster Volunteer Force, who



Blinco: described as a model guardsman

committed more murders last year than republican paramilitaries, had in effect called off their operations to consider last month's Anglo-Irish declaration. But sources now believe that the UFF may return to the sort of random sectarian attacks which terrorised Roman Catholics in Ulster in the autumn.

Yesterday an incendiary device, believed to have been planted by the IRA, was found in a shop in the centre of Belfast.

The province's political leaders expressed hope in their new year messages. Jim Molyneux, the leader of the Ulster Unionists, said he would take the lead in "increasing the tempo" in inter-party talks.

## Cabbies see red over yellow taxis

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

TAXI drivers in Aberdeen are going red in the face over plans to make them drive pink and yellow cabs after the city council voted unanimously to make all Aberdeen taxis a uniform colour.

The council favours New York-style yellow taxis for the city's 800 cabs, most of which are saloon cars. There are tentative plans to paint women-only taxis pink. The idea behind the livery is to make cabs more recognisable and improve safety as it would be more difficult to mistake a private car for a taxi.

Allan McLean, convener of the council's licensing committee, said yesterday that eight taxi drivers applying for a licence on February 18 will be told that before the licence is granted they will have to paint their cars yellow and fit a swivel front passenger seat for disabled customers.

"The decision to have a livery for taxis was taken some time ago but last week the committee looked at designs submitted by our publicity department. We chose the yellow with a white half door and the word taxi painted on it, on the grounds that the police said yellow cars were most noticeable," Mr McLean said.

The idea of pink women-only taxis was Mr McLean's. "We are looking at ways of making women's travel safer and pink taxis would be even

more noticeable than yellow." The plan is still being discussed by the council but it has the approval of many women in Aberdeen. Barbara Kay, assistant warden at the city's YWCA, said: "I think it is a good idea and will make women feel safer. Our girls, especially the ones from overseas, would find it helpful."

The city's cab drivers say the respray would cost between £1,000 and £2,000, and £600 to fit the swivel seat. Jim Webster said the idea was ludicrous. "We have some of the highest overheads of any taxi drivers in Britain and to force us to have yellow cabs would be absurd. We could not cope with the extra burden."

Drivers are also protesting that the second-hand value of yellow taxis would be greatly reduced and that it would make them a target for car-radio thieves. The Aberdeen Taxi Agency said pink taxis in particular would not last long. "It would be vandalised by any kid that saw them."

Mr McLean, who disputes the drivers' figures for the cost of introducing the livery, says it is in the drivers' best interest because it will stop unlicensed drivers picking up fares.

A meeting to explain the new proposals to the cabbies will be held on February 15. "We are not consulting them. We are telling them," Mr McLean said.

## Father loses home-alone case

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

A MAN whose children were found at home alone on Christmas Eve lost a court attempt in Leeds yesterday to win back custody.

Instead, the four-year-old girl and her brothers, aged five and one, will stay with foster parents.

The children were discovered by carol singers in a ground-floor maisonette with only a tin of beans and sausage. There were 11 minutes left on the electricity meter. They were put under a week-long place-of-safety order, which expired yesterday.

The father, 27, will be allowed supervised access twice a week. He gave evidence to the three-hour sitting, which also heard from social workers and West Yorkshire police. He has been charged with wilful neglect and will appear before magistrates in Leeds on January 27.

The mother was traced to Bridlington, Humberside, but refused to talk to social services and did not attend the hearing.

Michael Simmons, chairman of the city's social services, said the children had a "magical" Christmas. "They were part of a larger family and had many presents and all the trimmings." He welcomed the court's decision. "I think this was in the best interests of the children. They will stay with foster parents until January 28."

"It's a continuing period of uncertainty but it means a rush decision has been avoided and we can explore what is best in the long term."

Another scandal over abandoned children emerged yesterday, when five left alone for Christmas in Scunthorpe, Humberside, reported their parents to police. The parents were questioned after agreeing to let the children be taken into voluntary care.

## The honour is all Tony's

By TIM JONES  
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

TONY Severine, the man who has emerged to epitomise John Major's first "classless" honours system, was, as usual, immaculate and diplomatic yesterday as he greeted passengers on his No 12 Routemaster bus.

The Camberwell conductor, who has worked on London buses for 23 years, said that he was "delighted and overawed" to be made an MBE after letters of praise from customers. They all commented on his cheerfulness, courtesy and helpfulness and said that he was a prime candidate for demonstrating that not only Whitehall mandarins should get moving, but for a job well done.

His pride in being made an MBE for "outstanding service to the travelling public" was shared yesterday by the passengers along his route from Dulwich to Shepherd's Bush Green, through Westminster, Oxford Circus and Marble Arch.

Leonard Hall, 75, who regularly uses the route with his wife Lilian, said: "We are always pleased to see him because we know he treats us properly. I think his award is marvellous and well deserved."

Yvonne Sapir, another regular passenger, said: "It's



Tony Severine MBE, on the No 12 from Dulwich

always a pleasure to see him on the bus. He always asks how I am and tries to help whenever he can."

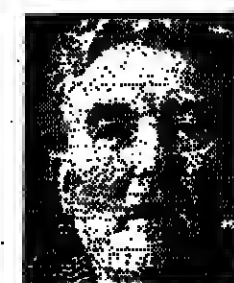
Mr Severine, 44, who was born in Dominica, said he hoped that his honour would help to consolidate race relations in Britain. "I am a working man who does his best. All my passen-

gers are important to me." He said that after receiving the insignia from the Queen he would probably wear it for a week in thanks to the passengers who nominated him. He did not know whether his salary of £130 a week would enable him to hire top hat and tails for the ceremony.

## THE SUNDAY TIMES

### The perils of 1994

1994 may open up new perils for the House of Windsor as its constitutional weaknesses are exposed. The Queen urgently needs to tell the heir and his wife that the future of the



throne depends in great part on their willingness—even at this late hour—to stop bickering and make their marriage work. The monarchy has a reasonable future as an example of Christian morality and family values, but no future as a collection of ultra-rich, privileged nonentities.

Paul Johnson (pictured) previews the new year—in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow

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Cabinet feared trial of Stephen Ward would uncover establishment figures involved in affair

# Profumo: a sex scandal that terrified the Tories

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA

HAROLD Macmillan's Cabinet secretly feared that Stephen Ward, the doctor at the centre of the Profumo scandal, would exploit the publicity surrounding his trial to name other establishment figures involved in sexual scandal, according to classified files released today.

Senior ministers voiced alarm on June 12, 1963, at the cabinet meeting to discuss the forthcoming Commons debate on Profumo's resignation, that Ward "in his capacity as both an osteopath and a portrait painter had been familiar with many individuals prominent in public life, including several Members of Parliament".

There was a risk that he might use his trial for alleged crimes under the Sexual Offences Act of 1956 "to involve some of these persons in the scandal which had now developed".

The prospect of such tantalising disclosures would have thrilled the public, which queued to buy Lord Denning's official report on the affair in September and relished its louches such as "The Man in the Mask" and "The Man without a Head". The embittered Ward was certainly capable of adding to the salacious gossip involving the political elite that was circulating in Fleet Street and clubland. In a confidential letter sent to Macmillan on June 10, a retired Grenadier Guard familiar with the bohemian social set that used to gather at Lord Astor's home at Cliveden warned the prime



Anatomy of an affair: Harold Macmillan, left, the Prime Minister; John Profumo, at his wedding to Valerie Hobson; and Stephen Ward, right, who was "familiar" with prominent individuals

minister to take the threat seriously.

"I do believe that [Ward] has used these girls to tempt important people into doing things that could later be used against them," he wrote, "and I do believe that this has been done on a considerable scale, for a definite purpose." In the event, nervous ministers and MPs were spared further anxiety by Ward's suicide in August that year.

The newly released files betray the panic that gripped the Macmillan administration during the scandal. On June 12, the Cabinet agonised over the vulnerability of the four ministers who had advised Profumo to deny the charges of sexual impropriety in the Commons on March 22.

Ian Macleod, leader of the House, William Deedes, Minister without Portfolio, Martin Redmayne, the chief whip, and Sir John Hobson, the Attorney-General, had all known at the time that the War Minister had given a present to the model Christine Keeler and had twice been alone with her in Ward's flat. "It might well be asked why

they had not insisted at the time on examining [the] possible implications more deeply," the Cabinet argued.

Though the four ministers were cleared by their colleagues, the manner in which the question was posed in Cabinet typifies the neuroses to which the Macmillan Government fell prey during its bleakest hour.

The Foreign Office files released today include reams of letters and communiques from diplomats on the damage the scandal was judged to have caused to Britain's reputation overseas. A letter sent from Australia to the Commonwealth Relations Office on September 3, for example, described "glee at the British Government's apparent discomfiture... if one throws enough mud some of it is bound to stick. In this case some mud has stuck, and it will be some time before it is sufficiently dried to be brushed off".

Other memoranda recorded hostile coverage in Italy, Germany, New Zealand and elsewhere. Numerous unsolicited letters were received, including one from a woman in Brooklyn claiming to know of an adulterous relationship involving a former Labour minister.

Ministers took a close interest in these files. A letter dated July 11 from the private office of Duncan Sandys, Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, reported that "my Minister is very exercised" about the response to the scandal and set out plans for systematic briefing of overseas journalists to limit the damage. Telegrams sent from the Foreign Office after Lord Denning had completed his enquiry instructed diplomats "to



Ivanov attended party at Macleod's home



Keeler alone with Profumo at Ward's flat

emphasise the favourable points in the report".

The Profumo affair forced ministers to account for their behaviour as never before. Sandys felt compelled to send Lord Denning a photograph to prove he was not the so-called "headless man" pictured with the Duchess of Argyll.

Macleod had to explain why Ward and his Soviet friend Captain Ivanov had been at a party held at his house in October 1962. The homes of senior politicians were besieged by the press.

At the centre of the furor, Macmillan stood paralysed by his own "gentle inability to deal with sexual misconduct. He told the Cabinet that he

thought the speculation "deplorable". In his memoirs he admitted he did not "remember ever having been under such a sense of personal strain".

The Prime Minister's personal bitterness at Profumo's treachery is suggested obliquely in the draft letter accepting the War Minister's resignation. Prepared by the chief whip, the draft begins, "Dear Profumo, Thank you for your letter"; but the words "Thank you" have been crossed-out and replaced by the eloquently chilly phrase "I have received".

Profumo revelations, page 1  
Leading article and letters, page 15

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## Snubbed Heath mooted an EEC sans France

By A STAFF REPORTER

BRITAIN considered setting up a European Community that excluded France after President de Gaulle vetoed Britain's first attempt to join the Common Market in January 1963.

The idea was never acted upon because it would have required the other EEC members to annul the Treaty of Rome, and create a new European organisation, government documents released today under the 30-year rule reveal.

De Gaulle's opposition, which almost led to a breakdown in relations between London and Paris, caught Macmillan's government off-guard and fanned British fears of a French bid to dominate Europe.

During a press conference in Paris on January 14, de Gaulle announced that Britain, neither thought nor acted like a continental nation and was therefore not yet qualified for full membership of the European Economic Community. He then added insult to injury by offering some form of junior associate status instead.

Edward Heath, the Lord Privy Seal, had been conducting Britain's negotiations in Brussels and had been under the impression that the talks were making progress. Mr Heath told the Cabinet four days before de Gaulle's statement that "there had recently been a marked change in the atmosphere of the negotiations, and the member countries of the Community, with the exception of France, were earnestly seeking to reach a settlement on terms acceptable in the United Kingdom."

Mr Heath told the Cabinet that one of the main problems faced by Britain would be the harmonisation of UK farm price subsidies with the common agricul-

tural policy. Britain wanted the increase in British prices to be brought in gradually.

Three days after de Gaulle's press conference, the Cabinet's optimism about the accession talks had turned to anger. Mr Heath told the Cabinet that Maurice Couve de Murville, the French foreign minister, had misled him about de Gaulle's attitude to Britain's EC membership.

He said M. de Murville had accused Britain of having signed "secret agreements with the United States government, designed in effect to transform the European Community into an Anglo-Saxon free

trade zone".

The other five members of the Community had been "seriously disturbed" by the "dictatorial attitude of de Gaulle", Mr Heath said. One solution would be to begin talks with the other Community members about setting up a new Common Market without France. "But their own interests would dissuade them from dissolving the Community and negotiating with ourselves," he added.

Mr Heath, who was furious over M. de Murville's actions, accused the French president of "sabotage".

Edward Heath, page 14



De Gaulle, UK angered by his intervention in talks



# Cabinet saw Beeching axe as a price worth paying

By MICHAEL DYNES, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS were under no illusions about the ferocity of public reaction to the Beeching cuts which eventually lopped 6,500 miles off the national rail network. But cabinet papers released today show that Harold Macmillan's Government carefully prepared to defend the cuts as a price worth paying in the name of greater efficiency.

A cabinet meeting before the publication of Dr Richard Beeching's devastating report on March 27, 1963, was told that "the list of stations and lines to be closed would cause an outcry". But the personal inconvenience to millions of passengers "was the price for national efficiency".

The wholesale contraction of the rail network coincided with the start of the motorway building programme, which gave rise to allegations of a deliberate policy to run down the railways in favour of promoting private motoring—allegations that are still being made.

The Cabinet was told that Dr Beeching's report, *The Reshaping of British Railways*, "would involve drastic alterations in the existing system and a substantial curtailment of services, especially in the

more remote parts of the country". Nonetheless, "in spite of the considerable objection which would be raised in the areas affected by the proposals... the [British Railways] Board's approach should be accepted as being in accord with government policy".

Dr Beeching's rail rationalisation plan initially called for the closure of about 5,000 route miles and about 2,350 stations because they were "hopelessly uneconomic". Implementation of the plan would cut route miles from 17,500 in 1963 to 11,000 in 1975—a little more than half the 20,000-mile network at the height of the railways' success in 1914.

A cabinet minute recorded that the Beeching proposals "flow from the most massive compilation and systematic analysis of information about the railways ever attempted". They offered "a firm prospect of a modern railway system suited to the country's future needs". Moreover, the subsidy at the time of £150 million a year was "a measure of the railways' claim on economic resources which could be better used elsewhere".

The minute said: "The board's lucid analysis and bold proposals accord with the government's expectations. The aim, which is wholly consistent with the government's policy of growth, modernisation and redevelopment, is to produce an efficient modern railway system handling those traffics technically best suited to rail. The extensive reshaping of our railways is now essential."



Dr Beeching about to board the Blue Belle in Sussex. His report eventually cut 6,000 miles from the network

board's lucid analysis and bold proposals accord with the government's expectations. The aim, which is wholly consistent with the government's policy of growth, modernisation and redevelopment, is to produce an efficient modern railway system handling those traffics technically best suited to rail. The extensive reshaping of our railways is now essential."

The minute added: "The most controversial part of the plan is the withdrawal of many passenger services. Passengers would have to be told that 'if better railway services are to be provided to meet the needs of the nation, such measures are necessary'. The Cabinet was anxious of the impact on industrial relations caused by Beeching's call for the loss of 70,000 jobs. This

could be minimised by stressing that 'most of this reduction would be effected by normal wastage and control of recruitment. Actual discharges are not expected to be more than a small proportion of the total staff reduction. Even so there will be problems for those displaced.'"

The Cabinet was also told of the elaborate plans for giving "confidential" briefings for

national newspapers in an effort to portray the Beeching proposals in the best possible light. "Particular attention will be paid to the two London evening newspapers whose treatment of a report often sets a tone which the national dailies follow," it said.

Edward Heath, page 14  
Leading article  
and Letters, page 15

# Macmillan took key role in test ban treaty

By A STAFF REPORTER

PRESIDENT Kennedy regarded Harold Macmillan as the real architect of the partial test ban treaty that banned nuclear weapons tests in the atmosphere, outer space, and under water.

Secret documents released today contain a letter from President Kennedy to the prime minister acknowledging the extent to which Macmillan's "steadfastness of commitment and determined perseverance made this treaty possible".

The partial test ban treaty was signed in Moscow by Nikita Khrushchev, the Soviet leader, Dean Rusk, the US Secretary of State, and Lord Home, the Foreign Secretary, in August 1963. It was eventually signed by more than 90 other nations, although France and China refused to sign and continued to conduct nuclear tests in the atmosphere.

Macmillan played a key role in convincing Khrushchev that the initiative was a genuine attempt to decelerate the nuclear arms race. Macmillan was also instrumental in breaking the impasse between the Soviet Union and the United States over the number of on-site inspections required to make the treaty effective. In March 1963, President Kennedy wrote to Macmillan of the need to adopt a "more constructive approach" to the negotiations, "which might open the path to something better for the world than merely building vast forces which if not used are wholly destructive to mankind, and which at best keep a kind of uneasy peace by a balance of terror".

Macmillan said: "I have a feeling that the test ban is the most important step we can take towards unravelling this frightful tangle of fear and suspicion in East-West relations."

He felt the treaty, and especially his role in encouraging the White House to make the commitment, was one of his greatest achievements.

Macmillan was under no illusions that the Russians might be tempted to cheat by conducting clandestine tests. But he was convinced that the risk of being found out would be a sufficient deterrent.

In the month before his assassination, President Kennedy wrote to Macmillan that "if humanity is to be spared further radioactive contamination of the atmosphere, if the nuclear arms race is to be slowed down... it will be in no small measure due to your own deep concern and long labour."

# Red threat raised hope of Vatican link

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA

HAROLD Macmillan, the Prime Minister in 1963, and Lord Home, his Foreign Secretary and successor, dreamt of forging an alliance between Britain and the Vatican to combat international Communism, according to the documents released today.

Lord Home argued in a Cabinet memorandum of February 22 that "the need to defend Western ideals against Communism in the emergent countries all over the world has become more pressing". Close links between Britain and the Vatican might also help to alleviate the suffering of Protestants in Spain "and other Catholic countries where they suffer disabilities".

In an earlier minute, Lord Home had argued that it was illogical that "at a time when the ideological struggle between East and West will continue at least for some considerable time to come, we should refuse to accept a diplomatic representative from one of the staunchest members of the anti-Communist side, while we welcome ambassadors and ministers from a whole series of countries in the Sino-Soviet bloc".

Recognised only as "apostolic delegate", the Vatican's representative in Britain was of comparatively low status with no direct access to the Foreign Office. Macmillan, who had been petitioned successfully by the Catholic Duke of Norfolk, proposed to accept a more senior representative who would be described as an "interuncio". In private, however, the Prime Minister was warned by officials that recognising the Papacy as a foreign power in this way was fraught with danger.

Dr Michael Ramsey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, effectively put a stop to the proposals by claiming that they would endanger ecumenism.

# Kennedy's killing was Trotskyite plot, said Moscow

By OUR WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

THE Russians claimed that the assassination of President Kennedy in November 1963 was part of a Trotskyite conspiracy, secret government documents released today disclose.

In what must be one of the most bizarre additions to the conspiracy theories surrounding Kennedy's death, Moscow claimed that the assassination was the work of supporters of Leon Trotsky, the Russian revolutionary murdered on the order of Joseph Stalin in 1940. The revelation was made in a letter on November



Kennedy "facts" put right by State Department

30, 1963, from the American State Department's Bureau of Public Affairs to the British Embassy in Washington. The Foreign Office had asked the embassy to help the BBC with guidance on who was responsible for the assassination.

The embassy told the Foreign Office that the Bureau of Public Affairs said that "there seems to have been a recent shift in the line being taken by the Russians". Immediately after President Kennedy's death, "the Russians played up the assassination as the act of a right-wing and a racist group". Now, however, "they are attributing the act to a Trotskyite conspiracy".

The embassy told the Foreign Office that the American

State Department had decided to deny all such propositions in radio broadcasts to the Soviet Union. In rebutting this propaganda, they insisted that "the facts are" that the assassination was the work of a determined individual acting on his own and not at the prompting of any organised group, the embassy said. "We shall now probably never be able to verify" these facts, the embassy added.

The documents add little to existing knowledge about the President's assassination. A letter from the British consulate general in Texas to Sir David Oomsby Gore, the British Ambassador in Washington, however, shows that the President was expecting a hostile reception.

The letter said: "As Dallas has a reputation for chauvinism, and is the home of right-wing extremists, it was expected that the President would face opposition here and that he would publicly denounce the reactionaries. Indeed, Mr Adlai Stevenson is reported to have warned the President to avoid Dallas, saying that his recent man-handling there (he was spat upon) disclosed a deep and bitter resentment of the Administration and its policies and that security was poor."

The assassination of Kennedy and the subsequent killing of Lee Harvey Oswald shocked the world. But "while both crimes still seem inexplicable, the appalling inefficiency of the Dallas police at every stage is obvious", the letter said.

The letter added that lack of knowledge "immediately gave rise to rumours of every description and of the wildest kind. The John Birch Society, the Communists, the Protestants, and even the negroes were all blamed in the hunt for the President's murderer, and Dallas was on the verge of a city-wide witch hunt."

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## JANUARY 1963

Prime Minister — Harold Macmillan  
First Secretary of State — R. A. Butler  
Home Secretary — Henry Brooke  
Lord Chancellor — Lord Dillkome  
Foreign Secretary — Lord Dillkome  
Commonwealth Secretary — Duncan Sandys  
Secretary of State for Scotland — Michael Noble  
Lord President of the Council — Viscount Hallam  
Defence Minister — Peter Thorneycroft  
President of the Board of Trade — Frederick Erroll  
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food — Christopher Soames  
Minister of Labour — John Hare  
Housing and Local Government — Sir Keith Joseph  
Transport — Ernest Marples  
Education — Edward Boyle  
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster — Ian Macdonald  
Paymaster-General — John Boyd  
Lord Privy Seal — Edward Heath  
Without Portfolio — William Deedes  
Health Minister — Enoch Powell

## OCTOBER 1963

Postmaster-General — John Reginald Boyle  
Prime Minister — Harold Macmillan  
First Secretary of State — R. A. Butler  
Home Secretary — Henry Brooke  
Lord Chancellor — Lord Dillkome  
Foreign Secretary — Lord Dillkome  
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Without Portfolio — William Deedes  
Health Minister — Enoch Powell



Enoch Powell: Health Minister

Commonwealth Secretary — Duncan Sandys  
Secretary of State for Scotland — Michael A. Noble  
Lord President of the Council — Viscount Hallam  
Defence Minister — Peter Thorneycroft  
President of the Board of Trade — Frederick Erroll  
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Lord Privy Seal — Edward Heath  
Without Portfolio — William Deedes  
Health Minister — Enoch Powell







## Cash-starved police man thin blue line in clapped out cars

By STEWART TENDLER  
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

OFFICERS serving with the cash-starved South Wales Constabulary have to put up with 'petrol rationing' - cars with up to 170,000 miles on the clock and a police station condemned on health and safety grounds.

The poor state of the biggest force in Wales was detailed yesterday as the Home Office renewed its offer of discussions on funding. Robert Lawrence, the Chief Constable, gave a warning on Thursday that between 30 and 40 stations may be closed because the budget set by the police authority will still leave the force with millions less than is needed to modernise.

South Wales has become the latest in a series of forces left with too little money to maintain manpower, vehicles and buildings after years of neglect or wrangling between central and local government. Derbyshire has twice been condemned in reports by an inspector of constabulary and other forces have instituted economies because of funding problems.

The Welsh force covers the three counties of Glamorgan, the cities of Cardiff and Swansea, extensive docks, the towns and villages of the South Wales valleys, two airports and the M4 corridor. The establishment, with 3,168 officers and a budget in the

**The Government says county councils must decide how they allocate funds for the stricken South Wales Constabulary**

current financial year of £130 million, serves a population of 1.2 million.

A police spokeswoman said yesterday that the budget had to maintain the worst police vehicle fleet in the country. Nearly a third of the 606 vehicles have travelled 80,000 miles and one traffic car has reached 170,000 miles, although the recommended mileage for such vehicles was 75,000 miles. Panda cars have travelled 120,000 miles and two motorcycles have covered more than 95,000 miles.

The force has a number of cars waiting for funds for repairs, including five damaged by vandals and a ramming two weeks ago. A motorway patrol car is awaiting repairs costing £5,000. There are also a number of cars off the road because of restrictions on the fuel budget.

The 14 divisions in the force have each been allocated tight budgets for petrol consumption. Patrol cars have a limit for each shift, which means officers may have to do more work on foot and exceed the limit only in emergencies.

At Porth near Rhondda, the force may have to find an alternative police station because the present building

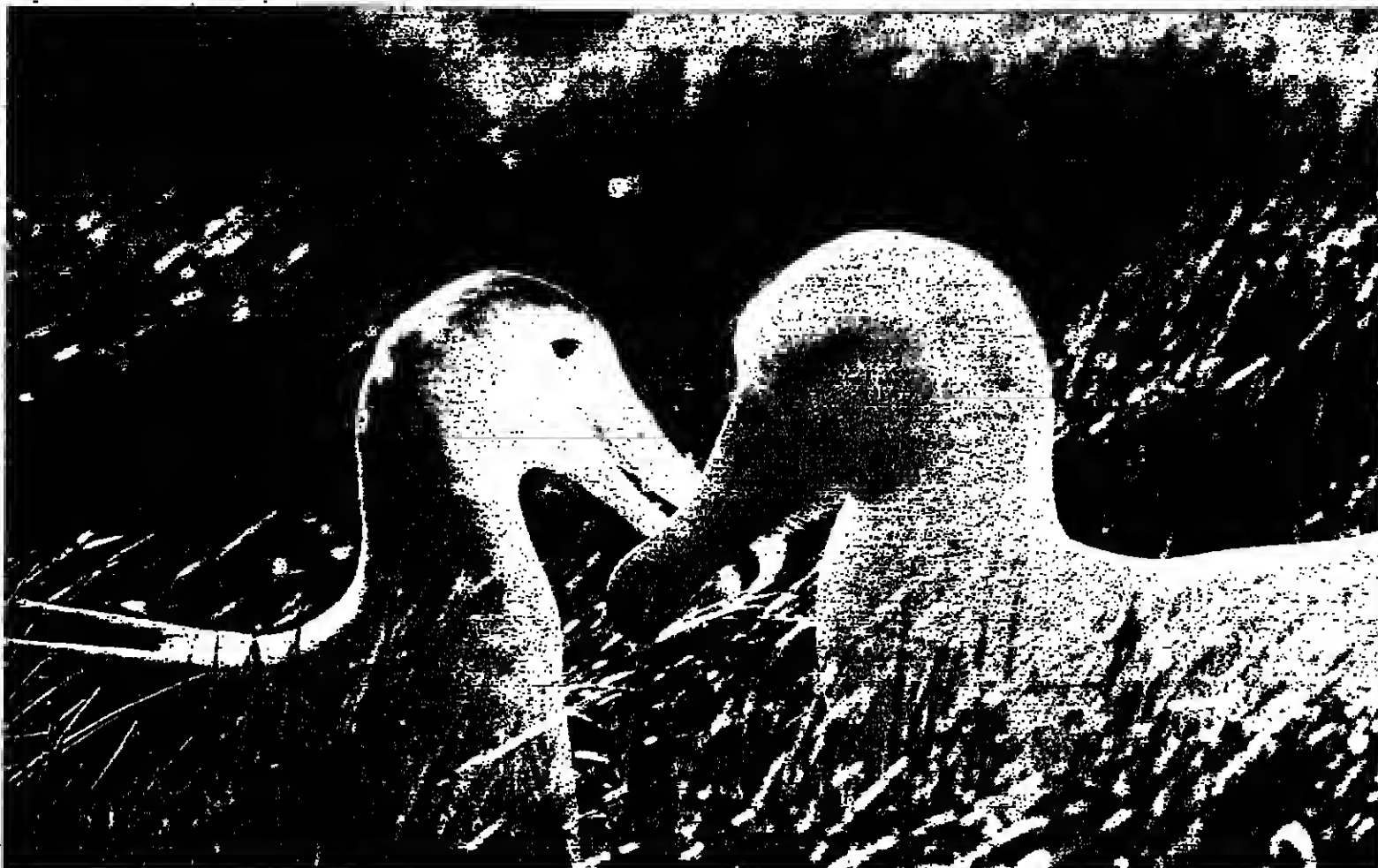
has been condemned by health and safety authorities. The station is falling down and the force says there are many other buildings in a very poor state. Part of the force headquarters at Bridgend is shored up with scaffolding and in Cardiff repairs are being carried out to the floor of a police station because a desk fell through it.

The force believes it receives £14 million less than needed to catch up with the effects of wear and tear. It argues that the Home Office wrongly classifies it as a semi-rural force, which limits funding, yet it has 20,000 more crimes than Merseyside, which has 1,600 more men and an extra £70 million in its budget.

The three counties providing funding say they face government restrictions on spending. The Home Office and the Welsh Office maintain it is up to the counties to decide how they allocate the funds.

Yesterday, the force said it would continue to maintain a good police service and answer emergency calls swiftly. Other calls may eventually have to be prioritised and officers could find themselves parking their cars and increasingly patrolling on foot.

## Wildlife team sets sail to track the plight of the albatross



Two wandering albatrosses rest on Bird Island, South Georgia, tired after days searching the South Atlantic for fish and squid that scientists fear may be dwindling. A British expedition, concerned at the plight of seals, birds and penguins from overfishing of food stocks, set off from the Falklands yesterday on board the RRS *James Clark Ross* (Nick Nuttall writes).

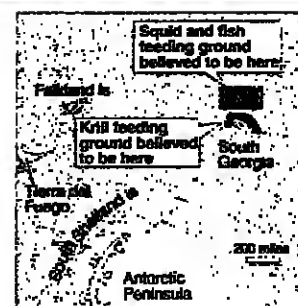
The expedition, run by the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge, will

attach 3in transmitters to albatrosses to track them by satellite to their summer feeding grounds hundreds of miles away. Bigger transmitters, able to withstand the pressures of diving, are being fitted to seals.

The tracking will be backed by instruments designed to observe the food levels in the sea, as well as the chemistry and temperature of the waters. The scientists hope also to discover the exact quantities of fish,

squid and krill needed to sustain a successful breeding season. Over the past ten years, krill stocks have slumped at least three times, leading to an almost total failure of breeding colonies on some islands.

The scientists, who will be joined later by the South African vessel *African*, hope to help governments to set catch quotas, balancing the needs of wildlife with the commercial interest of fishermen. Photograph: S Pickering



## The danger of building God in our own image

The Bishop of Durham's seasonal message of "No 'ell" may send a wintry shiver down the spine of all who harbour the desire to see their opponents condemned to an eternal roasting; but it scarcely addresses the problem of finite human understanding's efforts to hold in balance the limitless love of God and His justice.

While human love and justice find their origins in the divine, they cannot be used as yardsticks to measure the infinite. We have tantalising flashes of insight, real but fragmentary experiences, nothing more. To dwell like modern theologians on the darkness in between could render us agnostic. To speak of the moments of bright certainty opens a path of hope and expectation on which we must travel without claiming prematurely to have arrived.

On the way, we can indeed dismantle false signposts such as Dante may offer. We can acknowledge our God-given freedom to turn away from our Creator, there is an old saying that the gates of hell are locked from the inside. We can understand the necessity for an eternal separation of pain from the presence of God, and shudder at the possibility that some might refuse to

Gillian Crow

be separated from their pain, preferring it to divine love. We may legitimately encourage the nurturing of the seed of God's love in every person, and hope and pray for all.

What is absolutely futile is to project our wishful thinking on to God. If we try to create Him in our own image according to a comfortable model we have built, we are being dangerously naive. God is the One Who Is, and we must take Him as we find Him, regardless of whether He conforms to our preferences.

If His love and justice designate an eternal separation of the painful - even if, horror of horrors, their identity does not tally with the list compiled by hellfire preachers - we must not remould Him according to our superior ideas by creating a fiction of a god.

At the Nativity, Christians see God become not a figment of human imagination but a human person, the perfect divine image. All our unknowing and misunderstanding of the infinite, distant Deity is confronted with

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What did humanity make of Him? He was misunderstood constantly. He failed to conform to proper expectations of the Messiah. He was belittled and ultimately rejected as being not the god people wanted at all.

Was He misunderstood when He promised to return again, or is the rejection of the Second Coming another attempt at recasting God in a manageable role?

The Gospels show Christ dealing decisively with pain, physical and spiritual, because both, being real, need to be excised if hell is to be banished from human experience.

Paradoxically, it is precisely the Christ who cannot heal, who cannot prevent the destruction of physical matter, even His own - and who therefore cannot come again - who would be incapable of destroying hell either as we suffer it in this life or the next. That tiny caricature of God bears the message not of "no 'ell" but "no hope".

Fortunately for humanity, 2,000 years of Christian experience demonstrates that is not the case. *Gillian Crow is secretary of the Russian Orthodox Diocese of Soudth in Britain.*

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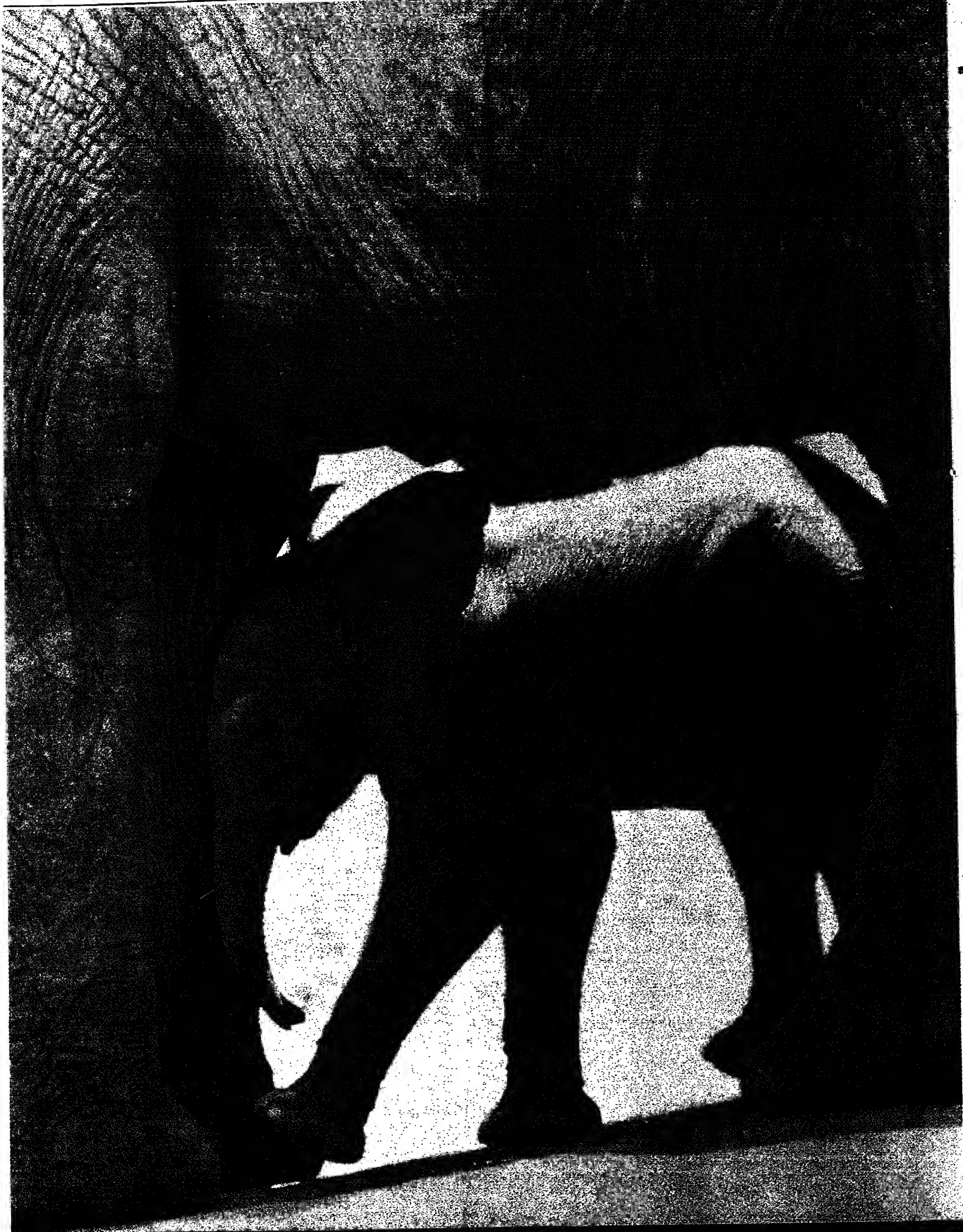
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# Moscow outlaws dollar in attempt to stabilise rouble

FROM MICHAEL BINYON  
IN MOSCOW

RUSSIANS wake up today to a world where the mighty dollar no longer rules. The greenback, along with all other coveted Western currencies, will no longer be accepted in shops, kiosks and souvenir stalls, and instead the humble Russian rouble, now trading at more than 1,200 to the dollar, will be the only legal tender.

The move, following a decree in October by the Central Bank, is causing consternation. Special hard currency shops, which made a fortune for the Soviet Union exploiting the foreign community, will now be forced to accept roubles. State monopolies such as the telephone, electricity, tourism and transport authorities, which greedily demanded payment in dollars to boost their precious hard currency reserves, are also now obliged to trade in roubles.

The decree, issued immediately after President Yeltsin sent in the tanks against the old Parliament, is an attempt to stabilise the rouble and demonstrate its full internal convertibility. The real importance, however, is psychological. By forcing all traders to accept roubles, the government wants to end the humiliation of the rouble-owning masses pressing their faces against the windows of smart hotels, luxury restaurants and the better-stocked shops where they were barred from entry without dollars.

The move also ends the privileges given to foreigners and mafia millionaires who were able to command the best of everything, including scarce medicines and airline tickets, simply because they had convertible currency. The decree will not immediately end the dollar's allure as a

**Russia faces high inflation and falling productivity. But the decision to limit circulation of hard currencies may have more of a psychological than fiscal impact**

stable unit in a torrent of inflation. Central Bank officials insist, however, that more dollars will now be on offer at the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange, thus boosting the value of the rouble.

In the communist era, any Soviet citizen holding foreign currency was liable to severe punishment, but the state's artificial exchange rate fuelled a thriving black market. Since the economic reforms began two years ago, controls have been lifted and the black market has almost disappeared as the rouble has been allowed to float. The dollar became virtually a parallel currency and many kiosks and shops, often under the control of the mafia, accepted only dollars, which they used to import Western goods.

The psychological boost for the rouble comes as the annual inflation rate is slowing, but the economic outlook remains bleak. The government announced that inflation in 1993 was running at around 900 per cent. The exchange rate for the rouble moved from 414 to the dollar in December 1992 to 1,247 last week. Industrial productivity fell a further 15.5 per cent, slightly better than the 18 per cent drop in 1992.

A third of the population — 49 million people — is living below subsistence level. Russia's ministries of labour, social security, employment and migration warned the government on Wednesday that if financial policy was not changed, up to 12 million people would be out of work by the end of 1994.

However, Boris Fyodorov, the Finance Minister, insisted that the rouble would plummet if Russia backed down over reform. He said prices were catching up fast with world markets, ending the flourishing of inefficient businesses which thrived on a huge gap in prices.

Yegor Gaidar, the First Vice-Prime Minister and guru of economic reform, said there was no need to slow down the reforms, which he predicted could soon lead to inflation falling to around 7 per cent. Privatisation ministers have been sounding optimistic also. The State Property Committee predicts that 80 per cent of property will be privatised by July, when the term of privatisation vouchers is up.



President Yeltsin receiving advice from Ludmilla Bikhova, his public relations assistant, before recording his New Year address at the Kremlin for broadcast on Russian television early this morning

## Muscovites thirst for vodka tonic in the ice

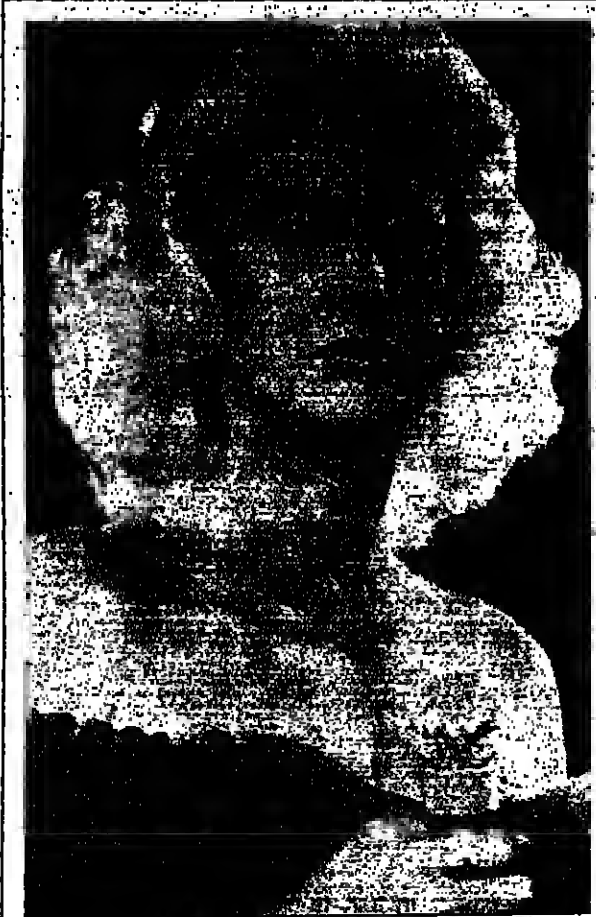
By MICHAEL BINYON

MUSCOVITES braved icy streets and temperatures of -5C yesterday to scour near-empty shops for vodka, brandy and any remaining luxuries to brighten their New Year's Eve and escape from the hardships of daily life.

For many, however, there was little to celebrate after one of Russia's most difficult years, and the outlook for 1994 is equally fraught. President Yeltsin, in his New Year message, called on all politicians to learn the lesson of the siege of parliament in October. Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet President, accused Mr Yeltsin, in a newspaper interview, of bringing ruin to Russia with his "undemocratic" economic reform and called on him to resign.

Most Russians choose to ignore political sniping on New Year's Eve, and there is another holiday to come: Christmas, on January 7 in the Orthodox calendar.

The curfew in Georgia was lifted for two days and that in Tajikistan came to an end at midnight.



Wynette, voted vocalist of the year three times

## 'First Lady' of country taken ill

By LOUISA YOUNG

TAMMY Wynette, the "First Lady" of country music, was still in critical condition in hospital last night. Wynette, 51, was taken to the Baptist Hospital in Nashville on Tuesday suffering from "a sudden major infection" and is in intensive care.

The current illness overcame Miss Wynette very quickly, said Evelyn Shriver, her representative. Soon after finishing a recording session with Aaron Neville, of the Neville Brothers, Wynette was taken ill and rushed to hospital.

She has a history of intestinal problems and has had more than 20 operations in recent years. Almost as famous for her life as for her music, Wynette followed her big hit "Stand By Your Man" with the much pastiche "D.I.V.O.R.C.E.", and has been married five times.

She has recorded more than 50 albums and sold 30 million records. She survived a mysterious kidnapping attempt, had a role in a soap opera, and overcame an addiction to painkillers during the 1970s. She has

been "The Country Music Association's female vocalist of the year three times. Her current album (with Dolly Parton and Loretta Lynn), is at No. 12 in the *Billboard* Country Chart.

Born Virginia Wynette Pugh in Alabama, she still keeps the last cotton she picked in a bowl by the door of her Nashville home, First Lady Acres. She has also renewed her beautician's licence each year: "I came to Nashville with two things, that licence and a voice," she has said. "I figured I should keep the licence up to date just in case."

Recently Wynette had a public disagreement with Hillary Clinton. Mrs Clinton, discussing claims of her husband's adultery on television, declared that she was not "sitting here, some little woman standing by my man like Tammy Wynette". On behalf of all the "little women who stand by their men", Wynette declared, Mrs Clinton had displayed "obvious insensitivities". They later made up their differences.

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# Rabin says Arafat to blame for peace delay

Despite his criticisms of the PLO leader, the Israeli Prime Minister remains convinced that Yasser Arafat is still the only Palestinian figure who can deliver peace

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN TEL AVIV

YITZHAK Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, yesterday presented a grim assessment of the prospects for Middle East peace in the new year, warning that Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation could take weeks to resolve their differences.

At the Ministry of Defence in Tel Aviv, Mr Rabin said the apparent compromise during talks in Cairo on Wednesday between negotiators from both sides had been scuppered on Thursday by Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman. "The remarks of the chairman are far from anything discussed or agreed," the Israeli leader said.

The Prime Minister said he had received a fax from the PLO which he regarded as practically "a rejection". He reiterated that Israel would not climb down on any of the three main objections that have stalled the implementation of the peace accord, now three weeks behind schedule.

Israeli troops were supposed to begin withdrawing from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho on December 13, but disagreements over who will control the borders with Jordan and Egypt, the size of the Jericho enclave and security for Jewish settlers have postponed the pull-out date.

Mr Rabin, a former general who is also Defence Minister, said Israel was willing to allow a Palestinian presence at the border controls and to increase the size of the Jericho area. He insisted, however, that the frontiers remain under Israeli military control, that the Jericho enclave not extend to the Dead Sea, and that no Jewish settlements be dismantled at this stage.

"We will not implement anything before an agreement satisfactory to the two sides has been achieved," he said, speaking ahead of next week's visit by Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary. "If it will take a few weeks more, I am sure in the long run an agreement will be reached."

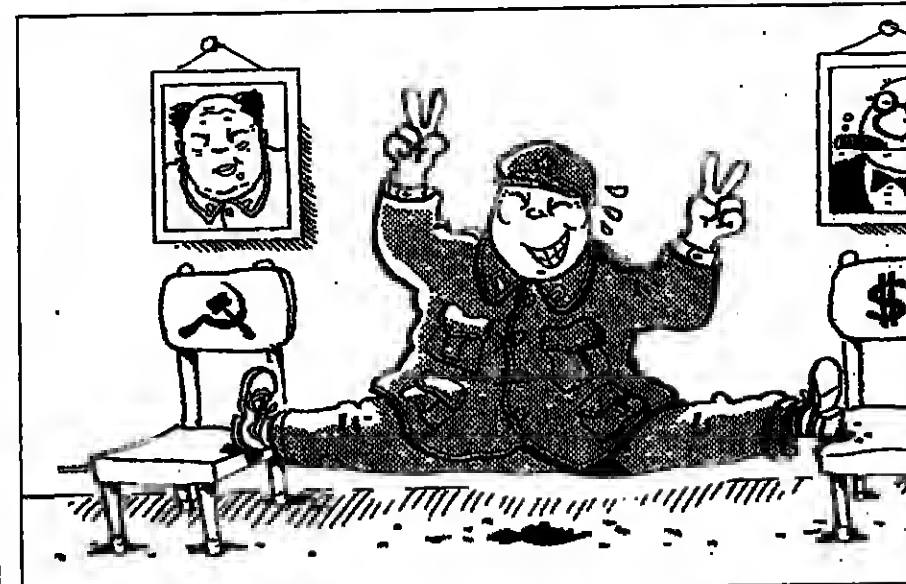
Mr Rabin remained philosophical about the deadlocked talks, however, even suggesting that the Palestinian side was merely posturing to try to gain concessions at the negotiating table. "Negotiations in the Middle East look like a Middle Eastern bazaar," he said. "Don't take it too seriously at any given moment. You will have to judge it after a long process. One has to have patience; we have patience."

Responding to mounting speculation in Israel and the Arab World that Mr Arafat had lost the support of his people and his ability to negotiate, Mr Rabin stood up for his former rival and insisted that the PLO chairman was still the only Palestinian figure who could deliver peace with Israel.

"To the best of my understanding, he is the person who takes all the decisions," he said, adding: "Therefore I have no doubt in his capability to take decisions. I hope that decisions will be made in the right direction."

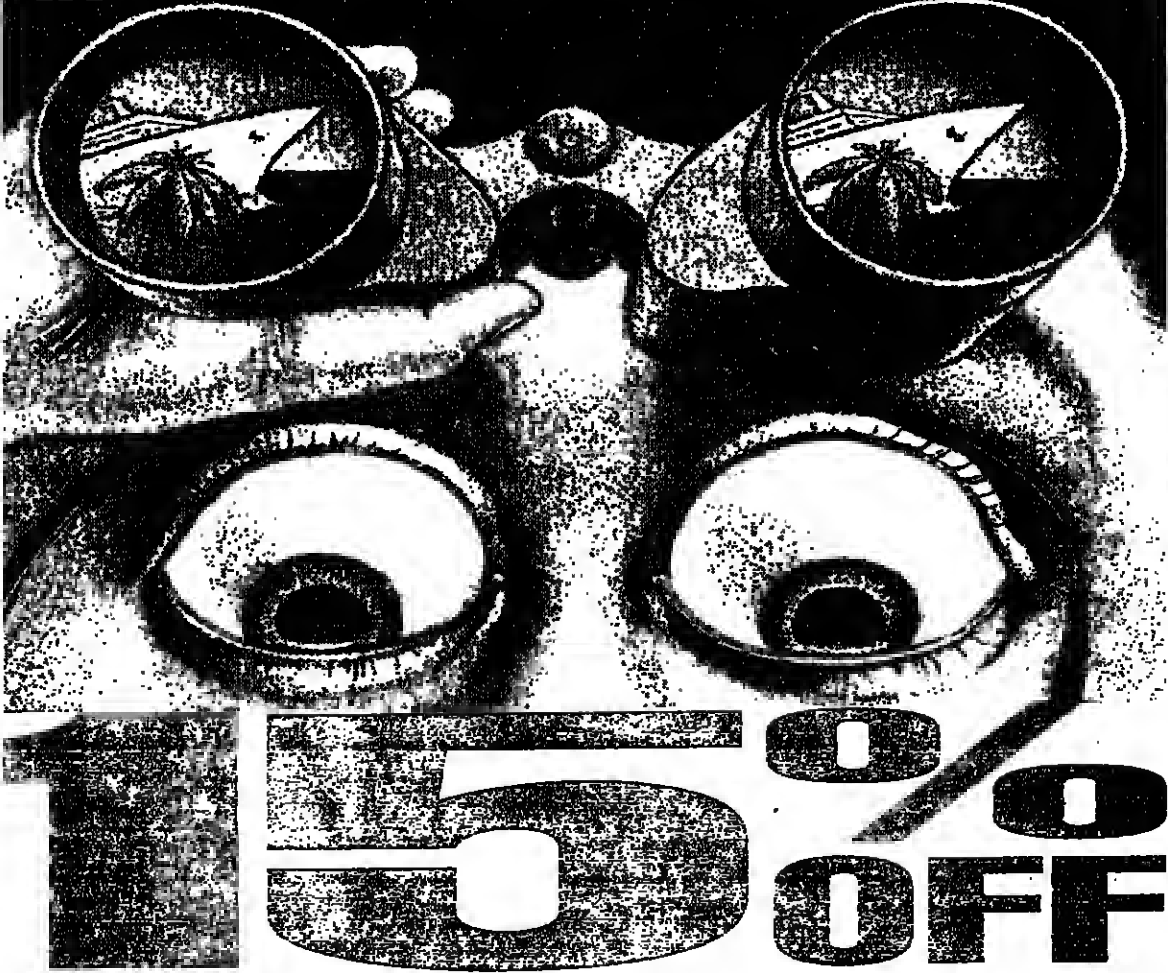
In a reference to the right-wing opposition, which is campaigning against the "land for peace deal", Mr Rabin said that Israel's future lay in strengthening Israel, rather than in annexing the nearly two million Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

## THE WORLD IN CARTOONS: A BALEFUL EYE



Clockwise from top left: the London declaration as seen by Hagen in Norway's *Verdens Gang*; Yeltsin's plight portrayed by Mochalov in Moscow's *New Times*; crime in New York by the *Toronto Globe and Mail's Gable*; China's dilemma viewed by Plantu in *Le Monde*; an ironic look at Bosnia from Arradio in Costa Rica's *La Nación*.

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# Artillery onslaught casts pall of horror over Sarajevo clinic

FROM KURT SCHORK IN SARAJEVO

EVEN by Sarajevo standards, the scene at the Kosevo trauma clinic on the afternoon of New Year's Eve was gruesome.

With a quiet skill born of long experience, the clinic in the Bosnian capital sprang into action after six artillery shells slammed into central Sarajevo yesterday, killing four people and wounding 33. At least two shells hit the city's main street, wounding more than a dozen civilians, many of them seriously.

Seven wounded, including two women, were sprawled in pools of blood on the pavement and in a vestibule near the capital's presidency building. One man was dead at the scene.

To the east, another shell had blown a hurricane of glass shards into the street, wounding several. Passers-by, including foreign reporters, struggled to load the wounded into their vehicles for the trip to the nearby Kosevo clinic.

Two United Nations armoured vehicles drove past the scene but failed to stop, witnesses said.

As one reporter lifted a badly wounded man into a car, the man's artificial leg — the result of an earlier war wound — fell off in the street. So many wounded arrived at the same time at the clinic that they had to be piled on the floor of the lobby and given first aid on the spot.

Doctors and nurses slithered across the blood-stained floor, applying tourniquets. Blood-soaked clothing was sliced and ripped from the injured and piled in mounds on the floor.

For all the bustle, the lobby was strangely quiet. There were few moans from the injured, and Kosevo's trauma teams are so experienced they rarely have to speak during such emergencies.

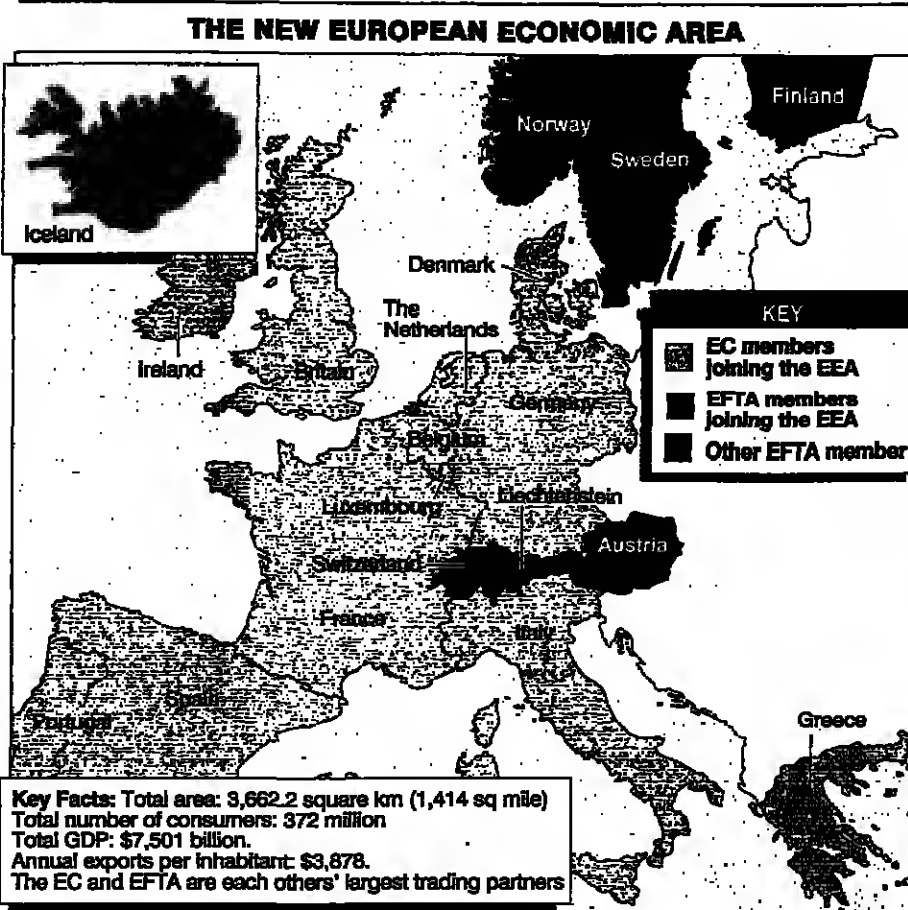
One woman in a fur coat with grievous wounds to the legs and lower abdomen was

dragged off by her feet into a corner and left alone, presumed dead. Some casualties had to stand or sit unattended for more than a quarter of an hour as the more seriously wounded received priority treatment.

UN officials had no immediate explanation why their vehicles drove past the scene of the shelling without offering help, but said that they were investigating.

Tony Lord, head of the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Sarajevo, gave a gloomy summary of UN aid operations in Bosnia over the past year. He said that efforts to move relief aid to victims of war in Sarajevo and other areas of Bosnia would begin 1994 in much worse shape than a year ago.

The city has been under siege by Serb forces since April 1992. More than 50,000 city residents have been killed or wounded. (Reuters)



**INSTITUTIONS:** The EEA will be run by regular ministerial meetings and by a joint committee and will develop along with EC legislation. A "two pillar" approach means that both sides will be responsible for ensuring the agreement is applied in their countries.

**OTHER CO-OPERATION:** The EEA also includes co-operation in other areas not directly related to trade including education, research and development, the environment, consumer policy, tourism and statistics.

## Europe extends free trade area

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE world's biggest free trade market, from the Arctic to the Mediterranean, was born at midnight last night as the European Community linked up with five members of the European Free Trade Association (Efta).

The European Economic Area (EEA) will extend the EC's single market to Austria, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, setting the stage for an enlarged EC next year. Liechtenstein hopes to join after it has renegotiated its customs agreement with Switzerland, whose voters rejected taking part in the market.

The removal of some trade barriers across the region is expected to result in considerable economic gains for all the participating countries, including Britain, as firms will be able to treat the five Efta countries and the EC states as a unified market enabling them to make economies of scale.

"By taking on 1,500 single market measures, the European Free Trade Association states will have to open areas of their markets previously closed to UK exporters," Richard Needham, the Trade Min-

ister, said. British firms, which exported \$7 billion worth of goods to Efta last year, were well-placed to take advantage of the enlarged single market, he said. The deal does not extend to agriculture and does not remove border controls. The EC and Efta are each others' largest trading partners.

The North American Free Trade Agreement (Nafta) taking America, Canada and Mexico also came into force last night. Nafta covers a land area nearly five times that of the EEA, but the EEA has 372 million consumers against Nafta's 360 million and a greater gross domestic product.

Austria, Finland, Norway and Sweden began talks on EC membership in 1993 and hope to join on January 1, 1995. Officials caution, however, that the January 1, 1995 target for EC membership is ambitious. The four governments face tough negotiations early this year before their elections will be asked to back membership in referendums.

EEC without France, page 4  
Edward Heath, page 14

## Farewell to the glory and joy that once were Belgrade's

Dessa Trevisan. The Times' Belgrade correspondent made an OBE in the New Year Honours, looks back on her life in the Balkans



IN spite of Communism, Belgrade was once regarded as the most open, friendly and liberal capital in Eastern Europe, but the past few years have dramatically changed this. Gradually the mood has altered to one of depression, pessimism, greyness and outright hostility to the West — and especially to Western journalists.

Throughout the decades that I have been covering Eastern Europe, I have encountered problems with officialdom, but I was always able to carry on my work in Yugoslavia. Being of Slav origin had both advantages and disadvantages, but people on the whole were friendly. Now there is hostility and suspicion provoked by media campaigns that have had frightening effects.

People at the market where I used to go would look at me and ask "Why do you hate the Serbs?" or "Why are you against us?" If I tried to respond I met a mental wall created by stories in the state media, especially television, of Western conspiracies and the bias and plots of foreign journalists.

Hundreds of Serb journalists have been fired. Many have left the country or joined the small circle of journalists on independent newspapers, radio and television who work under extremely difficult conditions. Studio B television, Radio B 92, magazines Vreme and Vira, and Borba, the daily newspaper, are still maintaining their integrity against continuing harassment by government bodies.

From 1987, coinciding with the rise to power of Slobodan Milosevic, it was clear that the possibility of any liberal transformation was doomed. The great surge of nationalism that he incited, and used to his own ends, assumed frightening proportions and is still alive.

The people, however, are now fighting hardships previously unknown in Serbia. There are even food shortages — and that in a country which exports food. People are now weary of the nationalistic rhetoric, worried about the future, frightened and insecure. Nevertheless, the hypnotic effect of television, as the latest election results show, seems still to work.

While it is clear that the

lack of milk, bread and meat is not due to sanctions, state propaganda blames the outside world for all the hardship, including the horrendous inflation that has undermined the national currency, destroyed the economy and, with it, the once prosperous middle class.

The dinar has been replaced by the Deutschmark in the shops, even in those owned by the state. Peasants, who sell their products at prices three or four times those in the rest of Europe to people whose monthly wages are the equivalent of less than £10, also now demand marks. So much for hatred of Germany, blamed by Serbia for many of its troubles. Pensioners are hardest hit. Many have committed suicide and thousands are swallowing their pride and standing in queues every Saturday as humanitarian aid is distributed on the streets of Belgrade.

Leaving the country for the first time for several years and crossing the border into Hungary was a shock. On the other side of the border there was a queue of cars, nearly four miles long, waiting to cross back into Serbia with the necessities of life bought in Hungary.

Many people had spent more than 24 hours at the border. Once, of course, it was the Hungarians who left behind the grey poverty of their country in search of plenty, bright lights and the free and easy atmosphere of Tito's Yugoslavia. For decades, Belgrade's Writers' Club provided journalists with delicious food and opportunities to meet dissidents and intellectuals, as well as officials, engaged in debate.

Throughout the switch-back of Communist relaxation and repression, the club maintained its special role, providing journalists with information. Now even that has changed. The habitués are totally different and most of them are now black marketeers and others for whom the war has brought great wealth. Intellectuals can no longer afford to go.

Belgrade, like many Mediterranean and Balkan cities, once had a rich night life, now there is grime and terror after dark. The charm of the city is gone. It seems to have lost its character and, I fear, it will not quickly recover it.



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# Clinton demands urgent talks on radiation tests

From IAN BRODIE  
in Washington

PRESIDENT Clinton, stepping into the burgeoning controversy over Cold War human radiation experiments, yesterday ordered four government departments to attend a White House summit on Monday to co-ordinate their enquiries into the tests, often conducted without the subjects' consent.

Mr Clinton wants representatives from the Pentagon, Nasa, and the Energy and Veterans' Departments to review all aspects of the testing on hundreds of Americans from the 1940s until the early 1970s. The President is not scheduled to attend the meeting, but will be represented by senior officials.

The meeting was called just after Les Aspin, the Defence Secretary, had ordered the armed forces to comb through all files that may shed light on the experiments and to be completely forthcoming in their findings. He said: "I'm concerned about reports that human beings may have been used in conducting radiation tests without their knowledge."

**■ Among unsuspecting Cold War "guinea pigs" were retarded boys. As recently as the 1960s, they were injected with radioactive isotopes in experiments for the government**

We want our veterans and civilians to know how seriously we consider this matter."

The trailblazer in uncovering the radiation secrets has been Hazel O'Leary, the Energy Secretary, who said she was sickened to learn that subjects of tests sponsored by her department — then the Atomic Energy Commission — were unaware of being used in experiments. Earlier, Mrs O'Leary startled official Washington by revealing that America conducted 200 more nuclear tests than had been previously announced.

She set up a toll-free telephone line to answer questions and collect new information about the radiation experiments, and was astonished by the response. There were so many calls that initially at least 10,000 people were unable to get through. Many callers described ex-

periments conducted by the government, particularly the Pentagon.

Mrs O'Leary has dismayed some members of the Clinton Administration by saying that victims harmed by exposure to radiation must be compensated by the government. This sensitive issue will be taken up at the meeting, although senior officials are shying away from any commitment.

For years, the Justice Department has fought lawsuits brought by civilians who lived downwind from American nuclear weapons tests in Nevada and who said their cancers and other serious illnesses were due to high levels of radiation dumped on their communities.

In a policy reversal, Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, has promised Mrs O'Leary full support from the Justice Department and says they

should work together on legislation to ensure compensation to radiation sufferers.

One disturbing series of tests that has come to light was conducted on retarded boys at a school in Massachusetts, beginning in 1946 and lasting for ten years. The school superintendent asked parents for their consent but made no mention of radiation, saying only that the boys would receive a special diet to study absorption of vitamins and iron. The 49 boys, who were told they were joining a science club, were fed radioactive milk and cereal.

The study was conducted for the government by Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to learn the effects of mild radiation. One scientist involved, Constantine Maleskos, said yesterday that the levels of radiation were extremely low by the standards of the time and would still be permissible today. The *Boston Globe*, however, has reported that the tests were more widespread than previously believed and continued into the 1960s, when 61 children at the school were injected with radioactive isotopes.



The Princess of Wales on a New York shopping expedition. She was staying in the city after visiting her friends Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima, Brazil's ambassador, and his wife Lucia in Washington

## Korea relents on nuclear monitors

By IAN BRODIE

THE US government has reported progress in its nuclear talks with North Korea, but not a breakthrough as claimed by the official North Korean news agency.

At the talks in New York, North Korean diplomats conceded that international monitors can have access to all seven of the Stalinist regime's officially disclosed nuclear sites. This had been a key demand of President Clinton, whose Administration is divided over whether North Korea already has one or two nuclear weapons but is agreed that the nuclear programme is an issue of great concern.

Still to be clarified is whether the inspectors would be the sole judges of where they can go at the sites and whether they can examine the core of North Korea's nuclear reactor to determine if plutonium has been removed, possibly to make a bomb. North Korea has not yet spelled out its conditions for the monitors from the International Atomic Energy Agency, but in the past it has hampered their work after agreeing to let them in.

Also unclear is whether the North Koreans will allow examination of two nuclear waste sites where they may have been reprocessing plutonium for weapons. The American delegation to the talks sought answers to these ques-

tions. If the replies are positive, America could keep its end of the bargain by announcing, as a first step, suspension of the annual joint military exercises conducted by American and South Korean forces.

The North Korean news agency report from Pyongyang quoted a foreign ministry spokesman as saying the latest talks had removed a series of stumbling blocks. The two sides had achieved "a breakthrough for the progress of the talks by displaying the spirit of mutual understanding and co-operation". The State Department in Washington was not prepared to go that far, but acknowledged that the gap between two sides' positions had narrowed.



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# Carey took decision to snub Sudanese capital

BY SAM KILEY  
AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, continuing his tour of southern Sudan yesterday, said that the British Government had played no part in his decision not to visit Khartoum.

Speaking from the rebel-held south during a radio link with Nairobi, the archbishop said he was "very sad" that the Sudanese government was expelling Mr Peter Streams, the British ambassador, so soon after the dispute provoked by his decision to cancel his visit to Khartoum but to go ahead with a tour of the rebel-held Christian south.

"I want to say that the British Government in no way influenced my decision not to visit Khartoum," Dr Carey said. "The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, in particular Mr Streams, did all they could to assist my preparations on this occasion. But the decision was mine alone."

In London, Abdul Rahman Bakhit, the Sudanese Chargé d'Affaires, was summoned to the Foreign Office where he was told that Khartoum's explanation for Mr Streams's expulsion was "wholly inadequate".



Peter Streams, left, expelled from Sudan, and Abdul Rahman Bakhit, Khartoum's man in London

Mr Bakhit was also told that his government had until Tuesday to withdraw the expulsion order, or face severe sanctions.

It was felt that the Sudanese government was unlikely to withdraw its expulsion order against Mr Streams, Sudan, which won its independence from Britain on January 1, 1956, is touring the expulsion of Mr Streams virtually 37 years later as a second victory over its colonial past.

President al-Bashir of Sudan, who came to power in a

Muslim fundamentalist-inspired military coup in 1989, had invited Dr Carey to Khartoum as an official guest of the government. However, aides said he would have been identified with the Sudanese government if he had agreed to its terms.

A spokesman for the Archbishop insisted that it was clear that Khartoum wanted to control Dr Carey's movements, and engineer what he saw on his tour of Government-held southern city of Juba and the Nuba area.

According to Africa Watch and other human rights groups, the Nuba people, many of whom are Christian, are being "ethnically cleansed" and driven off fertile land in the Nuba mountains to make way for Sudanese Muslims. If Dr Carey had gone as an official guest, he would have found it impossible to investigate these claims, as well as the allegations of systematic persecution of the country's three million Christians. One of the victims of the harsh Islamic law imposed by the president was the Right Rev Peter El-Berish, Suffragan Bishop of Khartoum, who was flogged in public for allegedly committing adultery.

Sudan was blacklisted by Washington for sponsoring terrorism after the bombing of the World Trade Centre in New York, which was blamed on Sudanese fundamentalists.

Intelligence sources claim that Iran's Revolutionary Guards have been involved in persecuting Christians in Juba after being deployed along the front line in the war against the mainly Christian and Islamist rebels of the Sudanese People's Liberation Front.

British ultimatum, page 1

## Cuban President's grand-daughter arrives in Miami

## US reunion for Castro family

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI



Alina Maria Salgado Fernández, 16, whose mother made a dramatic escape from Havana last week

THE teenage grand-daughter of Cuba's President Castro arrived in Miami yesterday to be reunited with her mother who made a dramatic defection last week.

Alina Salgado Fernández, 16, was met by airport security agents at Miami airport and put on a flight to Atlanta, Georgia, where her mother was waiting to greet her.

"I'm very happy," said Señora Salgado in Havana before she departed. "I've been packed for two days," she added.

American diplomats in Havana issued her a visa on Thursday after the Cuban government gave her a passport. Asked if she was sad to be leaving Cuba she said: "Very much. But I suppose I may be able to return at some point."

Señorita Salgado was accompanied to Miami by Francisco Salgado, her father who is divorced from Dr Castro's daughter, Señora Salgado was expected to return to Cuba after his daughter is reunited with Alina Fernández Revuelta, her mother, in Columbus, Georgia, where she is living with Cuban-American friends who helped her escape.

Señora Fernández's daughter was allowed to leave Cuba after the intervention of Jesse Jackson, the American civil rights leader, who had a four-hour meeting with Dr Castro on Monday.

Mr Jackson said Dr Castro pledged to allow her to leave if relatives in Cuba did not object.

The family saga has caused much embarrassment for Dr Castro who had prevented his daughter from leaving Cuba for eight years.

Friends of Señora Fernández, whose mother had an extra-marital affair with Dr Castro, said her defection was intricately prepared. She left Cuba on a plane to Madrid wearing a heavy disguise and carrying a doctored Spanish passport which was delivered hours before she left with the help of two Spanish collaborators posing as tourists.

## Pakistan and India meet to talk peace

Delhi: India and Pakistan, which have become nuclear powers since fighting the last of their three wars 22 years ago, tomorrow begin the delicate task of trying to put relations between them on a safer if still unfriendly footing (Christopher Thomas writes).

The talks will explore the entire range of conflicts between India and Pakistan. There is no realistic hope of a breakthrough over the Kashmir conflict, but the talks could lead to eventual agreement to end the nine-year conflict, being fought at 20,000 feet, for control of the Siachen Glacier in the Karakoram range of the Himalayas.

The conflict is perhaps one of the world's most pointless. The territory is uninhabitable, strategically almost worthless, and has never formally belonged to any country, or power. The dispute is costly to both sides, and particularly to India, whose front line can be reached only by helicopter.

## Tutu wedding

Cape Town: Archbishop Desmond Tutu presided over the wedding of his youngest daughter, Mpho, to American sports writer Joseph Burris. Breaking tradition, Mpho was given away by her mother while her father conducted the ceremony. (AP)

## Kohl tribute

Bonn: Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, paid tribute to Simon Wiesenthal on the prominent Nazi hunter's 85th birthday, saying that he had dedicated his life to "defending good against evil and moral values against barbarism". (AFP)

## Plot charges

Freetown: Four Britons of Vietnamese origin have been charged with plotting to overthrow Sierra Leone's military government. They were not asked to plead to charges of treason at a magistrates' court and the trial was adjourned to January 10. (AP)

## Clean sweep

Washington: A 200,000-strong global army of volunteers collected 2,000 tonnes of rubbish over 5,000 miles of beaches and waterways in 56 countries during an annual one-day clean-up sponsored by the Centre for Marine Conservation. (AP)

## Lost link

Wellington: The population of the Pheasant Islands has fallen by almost 2 per cent following the death of a 94-year-old woman. The death of Bernice Christian, a descendant of the HMS Bounty mutineers, cut the islands' population to 55. (Reuters)

## Sax appeal

Prague: President Clinton may play the saxophone during a visit here on January 11 when he is scheduled to have dinner with President Havel after his arrival from Nato talks in Brussels, the Czech newspaper Lidove Noviny reported. (AFP)

## Legendary eccentric and agent to the stars dies at 86

FROM GILES WHITTELL  
IN LOS ANGELES

IRVING LAZAR, whose Oscar night party was for 30 years a hotter ticket than the Oscars themselves, has died in Beverly Hills at the age of 86.

Nicknamed "Swifty" by Humphrey Bogart, for whom he once made five film deals in a single day, Lazar was a pioneering "packager" of motion pictures, a Hollywood super-agent who numbered Gene Kelly, Truman Capote, Ira Gershwin, Cole Porter and Joseph Heller among his friends and clients. Just 5ft 2in tall and completely bald, he was a compulsive womaniser whose personal telephone directory was said to be indexed "Girls - Hollywood, Girls - Vegas, Girls - New York, and Girls - Europe".

Selling showbusiness ideas came naturally to Lazar. He had his first big break in the Army Air Corps during the Second World War, promising his commanding officer that he could sign Rogers and Hammerstein, Clark Gable and James Stewart for a publicity show, never having met them. He delivered, moved to California and prospered through clients and anyone else who caught his eye. "The greatest fun is to sell something you don't represent at all," he once said. "If I like something I go out and sell it - I usually manage to get paid anyway."

Lazar will be missed for his legendary eccentricities as much as anything. He washed bars of soap before using them, had his sheets changed twice a day, and had a path of clean towels laid out from the bathroom to his bed when he stayed in hotels.

It is not yet known how Lazar's estate will be distributed, but in the 1950s he wrote a will leaving his entire fortune to the wives of 12 of his friends, who were to be entertained at a three-day party.

Obituary, page 17



Lazar: friends' wives may be his heirs

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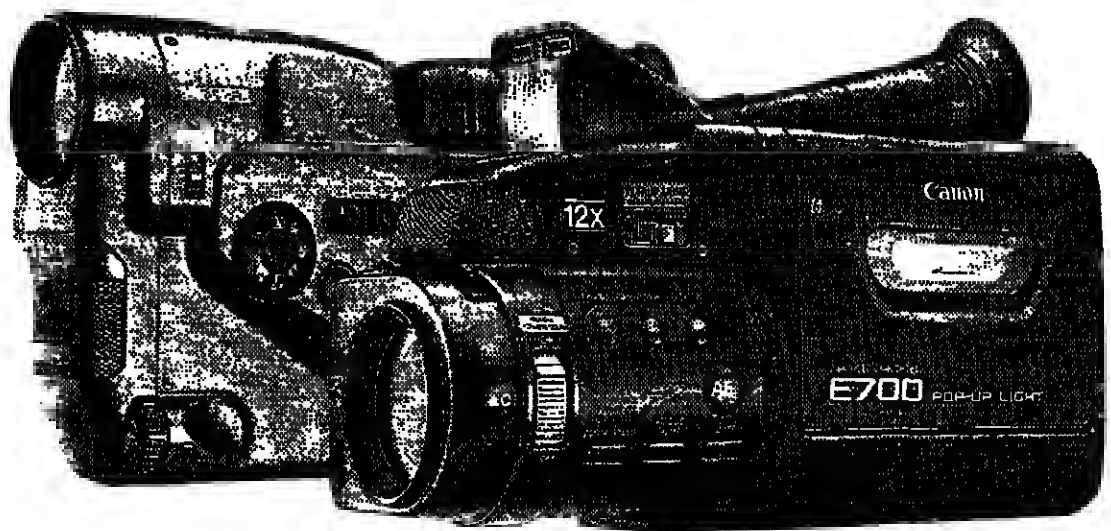
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Thirty years on, we still have much to learn from the original negotiations for Britain's entry into the EEC, says Edward Heath

## When France blocked our way

The government papers for 1963, released today, cover the final stages of the first negotiations for Britain's entry into the European Economic Community — now the European Union — brought to an end by the veto of General de Gaulle. Comment has concentrated on Macmillan's government apparently being taken by surprise by the veto. Is that so, and if so, how did it come about?

These negotiations began in October 1961 and it had been our aim to conclude them by July or early August 1962. The agreement could then have been discussed at a Commonwealth prime ministers' conference in the autumn, explained to the public at the party conference, and laid before Parliament after the summer recess.

However, this was not to be, despite our strenuous efforts. Indeed, so hard did we press negotiations and so lengthy did the sittings become that several of the ministers taking part became physically and mentally exhausted. The chairman

collapsed and was taken to hospital. We had no alternative but to adjourn until the autumn. This was not brought about by obstruction. It was the result of having to settle a mass of detail, while adhering to the principles laid down in the Treaty of Rome.

Jean Monnet, in many ways the founding father of the Community and a good friend and adviser to me, constantly urged me to accept the details, we would have more influence, and we would have a full say in all further developments. But this was not saleable either to all the Cabinet or Parliament, or the public. How much easier and quicker it would have been had this been feasible. For that matter, how infinitely stronger our overall position would have been had Attlee's Labour government negotiated us into the Coal and Steel Community, the first to be formed, in 1950.

When we resumed in the autumn, we concentrated upon reaching agreed positions on all the problems, so that in the New Year we could make an intense effort to produce a settlement. When we stopped at Christmas, we planned a programme, beginning on January 14, 1963, with a week's work, a week in the capitals reporting progress, and then a final week concluding negotiations. Harold Macmillan and I accepted an invitation from the Italian Prime Minister to visit Rome in February. We regarded this as an opportunity to thank the Italians for their help, and to celebrate our success.

To ensure that everything was as

not an obstacle. Finally he affirmed in a memorable phrase: "no power on earth can prevent this negotiation from being successful". He departed leaving us happy.

The French Foreign Minister was not present when we assembled on January 14 for the first of our "final" sessions. That was understandable. He would be expected to be at President de Gaulle's press conference, a terse but splendid event. Just before lunch, the news of that press conference and the veto reached us. Everyone was shattered. We decided to continue. The French Foreign Minister did not arrive until Wednesday evening, loudly denouncing our chairman for continuing with the sittings. He was ignored and we went on. When we broke up at the end of the week the German Finance Minister and

Foreign Minister indicated that they would urge Chancellor Adenauer to try to persuade President de Gaulle to change his mind at their meeting in Paris the following week. He failed, though there is not very much evidence that he concentrated on trying.

And so to the final meeting. There was no alternative to suspending the negotiations. Afterwards, the five foreign ministers invited me to join them to discuss whether the five could break away and with the British form a new six. It was not realistic. We broke up, despondent.

In view of all the assurances given, it is not astonishing that the Government was surprised by the veto. What brought it about?

I have always thought Macmillan greatly underestimated the

impact of his meeting with the French president the previous December and his subsequent agreement with President Kennedy to take Polaris instead of Skybolt. De Gaulle told me after I became leader of the Conservative Party that Macmillan told him frankly what he intended to try to get from Kennedy. It was just said de Gaulle, that he completely disagreed with it.

The episode confirmed de Gaulle's belief that the United States came first in Macmillan's — perhaps Britain's — order of priorities. He still suspected that Britain was using the negotiations to disrupt the Community.

I concluded my few words to my colleagues before we adjourned the negotiations by saying, "we shall never, never, turn our backs on Europe". I did so without telling the Cabinet, or even the Prime Minister. I did not want another prolonged Cabinet argument. We have not turned our backs on Europe, nor must we ever do so.

Employers should allow mothers and fathers more flexible working practices, says Mary Ann Sieghart

## Family policy should begin in the office

It will take more than 1994's International Year of the Family to order our muddled thoughts about society's most enduring institution. Throughout 1993, a series of incidents fed what was already a lurking unease about the health of the family: the James Bulger murder, toddlers left alone at home, the new rights of children to "divorce" their parents, and the birth of twins to a 59-year-old woman. Government ministers, sensing a current with which they could usefully swim, began to criticise single parents and to preach family values. With consummate predictability, one of their number was soon exposed as the adulterous father of an illegitimate child.

"Picking on single parents is as uncivilised as beat-bating," an old-school Tory minister told me a few months ago, uncomfortable with the rhetoric of some of his colleagues. Politicians did go wrong in aiming their barbs at active mothers rather than absent fathers. Becoming a father, after all, is dead easy; being one is much more difficult. And being a mother coping alone with children is harder still.

The only Government initiative, however flawed, that has a hope of reducing the number of new one-parent families is the Child Support Agency. This alone recognises that on the whole it is men, not women, who create such family units in the first place, by deserting the mothers of their children. If they are not left holding the baby, they will at least be left writing the cheques.

### Exponents of women's rights never envisaged a society of men and surrogate men

But absent fathers and single mothers cannot take all the blame for bad parenting. Many two-parent families fail to bring their children up well, and it is bizarre that the one child which almost everyone will need as an adult is still untaught by most schools. "Parenthood remains the greatest single preserve of the amateur," wrote Alvin Toffler. Parenthood, along with social and moral education, should be a compulsory subject for both sexes at school. Discovering the difficulties, as well as the joys, of having children might also deter teenagers from parenthood.

But ultimately, employers can do more than any government to ensure that the next generation is brought up well, something in which the whole of society has a stake. Almost everybody now accepts that women should have equal rights to work and to pursue a career; but those who fought for those rights never envisaged that they would create a society filled with men and surrogate men. Women have been allowed into the workforce, but only on men's terms. The result is a generation of children, caught between the modern thinking of their working parents and the backward thinking of their parents' employers.

Work practices remain barely changed from the industrial revolution. Employees have to arrive punctually each morning and spend the requisite number of hours at the office each day, five days a week, 48 weeks a year. For the majority of their waking hours they are away from home, away from their children. In order to demonstrate commitment and thus earn promotion, they are expected to put in extra, often unproductive hours and not to use up their paltry holiday entitlement.

Women, if anything, have to be more like men than men themselves. This means arriving early and leaving late, never mentioning children at the office, and pretending that they are sick in order to

take a day off when a child is ill. But while the notion of femininity has changed drastically over the past 30 years, the concept of masculinity has barely changed at all. Men are still expected to be aggressive and ambitious and to provide for their families. If it is hard for a mother to ask to leave early to attend the school nativity play, it is harder still for a father. And for a man to decide to stay at home to look after small children is to invite unconcealed derision from other men.

Yet many men yearn to be more active parents or, if they are older, regret that they missed so much of their children's early years.

One female MP told me the story of her daughter's birthday, which fell on the day she was supposed to be leading the discussion on a select committee. Assuming that she would celebrate in the evening, she was taken aback when her daughter would not be at home for a birthday tea. She finally decided to announce to her middle-aged male colleagues on the committee that she intended to leave them: "If I miss my daughter's birthday, she will remember for years to come; if I miss today's discussion, you will have forgotten in a fortnight." Instead of the expected barrage of criticism, she encountered a wave of sympathy from the men, who came over misty-eyed at the memories of birthdays missed in their own families.

If employers accepted that parents of young children, male as well as female, have special responsibilities which companies can easily help them to meet, the short-term result would be happier and more motivated employees. The longer-term outcome would be a better-adjusted generation of young adults to form the workforce and society of the next few decades.

A change in the working ethos is virtually costless. Employees should be judged not by the hours they put in, but by the quality of work they produce. If that work can be done at home with a computer, a telephone, a fax or a modem, all the better. And if that enables parents to have lunch with a child instead of boozing in the office pub with their colleagues, both family and company will benefit. Parents who ask to work part-time or to share a job, or to work more flexible hours, should be seen not as lacking commitment to their career, but merely as exhibiting an admirable sense of responsibility to their young families. Paternity leave is vital, as it is far easier for a man to become close to his children if he takes part in their care from the beginning. From the employer's point of view, expensively trained workers are more likely to stay in their jobs after children are born if their bosses respond sympathetically to these requests.

The more fathers are allowed to think and act this way, the less mothers will have to bear the burden of all the domestic responsibilities on top of their work. Employers will find, probably to their surprise, that most parents are far too conscientious to take advantage of any easing in the pointlessly macho attitudes towards work. And men will realise how rewarding children can be.

Meanwhile, what is now a lost generation of boys and girls will discover the joys of spending more time with their parents and grow up feeling more secure, better motivated and, with luck, more law-abiding. These are the new family values that politicians should be preaching.

There is, I am told, a piece of string inside my radio which links the tuner knob to the dial. This year it has virtually worn out. Day after day I have sent it spinning along the VHF waveband on a cacophonous journey from 90.2 FM to 100 FM and back again. For me and millions of other music addicts, 1993 has been the year of indecision: to run off with promiscuous Classic FM or return to our former love, Radio 3?

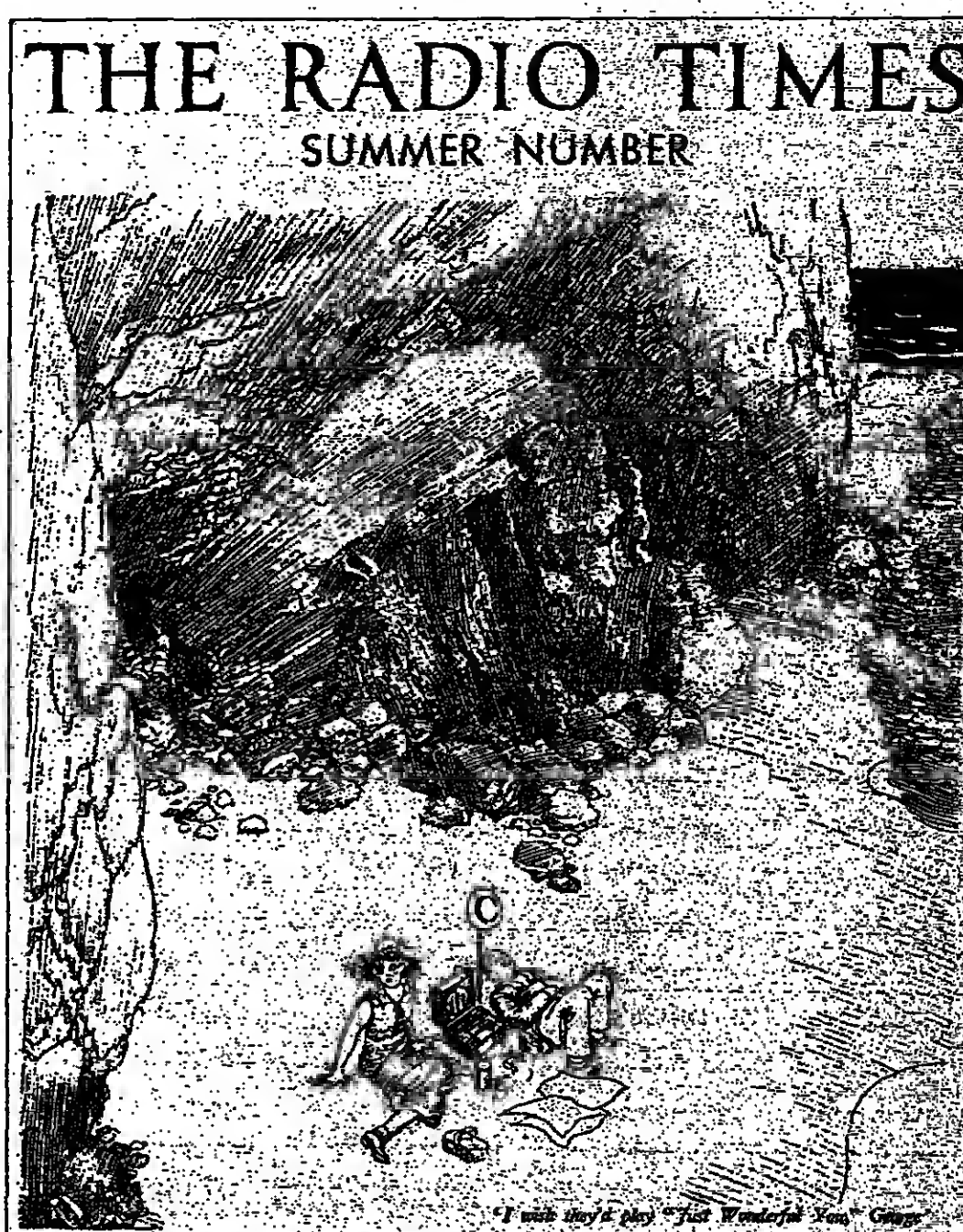
My introduction to Classic FM was, I must admit, instant infatuation: Schubert's *Du bist die Ruh*, waiting across the bathroom. I had long dreamt of a radio station that was day-and-night Schubert. I would awaken to impromptu and *Lieder*. The day would continue through the orchestral and choral repertoire. It would become more refined with the chamber works and welcome the night with the majestic sonatas. Familiarity would never breed contempt. Schubert, as Menckens said, "hatched more good ideas in 31 years than the rest of mankind has hatched since the beginning of time". How could Lord Clark have omitted him from his pantheon of civilisation? This feast of spirits, this first great impressionist, would have an ethereal beam entirely to himself, a Turner gallery of the air.

If Classic FM wanted to dilute the purity of this idea with other composers, so be it. Either way the station was surely onto a winner. Its slogan, "the world's most beautiful music", is cheap — why not Addison's "all of Heaven we have below"? — but at least it is true. What a relief, after years of Radio 3's gibe that the most beautiful music was already in every record library. It would offer the almost-most-beautiful music. Pop radio might mean the top ten, but serious music meant the next ten, perhaps even the bottom ten, whether the audience liked it or not. Radio 3 was producer choice not consumer choice.

What a relief also to have a station that treats its listeners not as prisoners trapped in a concert hall but as they are, busy people with things to do at home, in the car or at work, delighting to catch a familiar tune on the air. And what a relief to have presenters who plainly enjoy music. In his book *Music and the Mind*, Anthony Storr remarks that musical experts can become so close to their scores that music ceases to be an object of love: "They no longer play music or listen to it. For them music has become a scholastic endeavour devoid of emotional significance." As Professor Storr says, a new piece of music is like a new acquaintance. It takes time and patience to get to know. Most of us do not want new acquaintances pushed at us all the time. We want radio to be primarily to be a serendipitous encounter with old ones.

So we stand at the threshold of decision. Classic FM now has some 4.5 million listeners a week; Radio 3 has three million. My impression is that the two stations briefly

Radio-listeners no longer have time for whole concerts. When they switch on, they want to hear familiar music



Even in 1932 people were dissatisfied with radio (illustration by Arthur Watts for Radio Times)

### Simon Jenkins

to night. It still denies what Classic FM understands, that broadcast music makes different demands from concert-hall music. Radio, said Marshall McLuhan, is a hot medium. It requires conscious attention, the sublimation of all other senses to the sense of hearing. That is why difficult or unfamiliar music is so much easier to grasp when

sitting still in the concert hall, and why televised concerts are so unsatisfactory. On television the eye as the camera moves restlessly from conductor to soloist to cellist to timpanist.

I enjoy hearing familiar music precisely because it lets my attention wander without losing me completely. Few listeners to broadcast music have time to give it undivided attention or listen to complete works at a sitting. Its virtue is that it is not wholly distracting — unlike, broadcast speech. Radio music is an accompaniment to driving or reading. It is Satie's background, *musique d'ameublement*. It is the antithesis of Proust's string quartet, hired to play in his room to him alone.

Classic FM has wrenched listening away from the professionals, from publishers, promoters and music historians. It has used the lay experience of music as its most effective introduction. Mr Kenyon's presenters know music but seem not to love it. Classic FM's presenters love it, even if they do not know it. Even the sugary Classic Romance recognises that, for many people, music is the language of their most intimate, most passionate feelings. Mozart must say amen to that.

And yet and yet. I must admit to wearying of Classic FM. I can just tolerate the downmarket presenters, who seem to inhabit a world of Corfu holidays, Black Magic chocolates, and "name a famous Milan opera house" quizzes. Their chat is incessant and out of character with the music. Can Bach really be intercut with horsenacing tips and recipes?

But what I cannot tolerate are the advertisements. Radio ads obey McLuhan's dictum. They are hot. They cannot be ignored as television ad can, by turning away or clicking the sound off for the duration. They are insistent and, when repeated, maddening.

On Classic FM, they are also dreadful. I was on the brink of switching my phone account from BT to Mercury when I heard the latter's infantile sales pitch. How could a company that treats its market like retarded six-year-olds possibly run something as complex as a telephone exchange? I swear I shall never buy a Multi-York sofa or consign my savings to a phony-voiced "member of Laura and I'm". Nor is a good cause redeemed by the cheap sentimentality of the NSPCC, RSPCA and Shelter promotions.

I am told advertising agencies give radio ads to juniors to produce. They sound like it. Star copywriters and directors go for television, striving to be Hugh Hudson or Ridley Scott. Upper-class accents indicate reassurance and honesty, working-class ones imply idiosyncrasy or cunning. Last month, a sublime sequence of Orpheus Mozart and Bruch was plunged into utter banality by a baritone tourist advertisement from Brian Johnson and Garfield Sobers. Their wooden script carried not the slightest conviction.

Classic FM may need all the money it can get, but the good American classical stations, Chicago's WFMT or Washington's WGMF, carry calm, informative ads in keeping with the dignity of the music round them. Classic FM constantly drives me back to Radio 3. The station may boast 4.5 million listeners a week, but half of them must lounge for the off button when the ads come on.

The truth is plainly that my musical taste is unmet. Up there in the radiophonic ether, the free market has failed me. Until the coming of designer radio, of my personal Radio Schubert, I shall be an unsatisfied niche. I shall spin my dial to eternity.

performs its usual miracle and my hostess smiles again as she catches the direction of my gaze. "Ah, cousin Jo from Arkansas. Bit of a summer, isn't she? But frankly you don't stand a chance — she's been on that phone murmuring sweet nothings ever since she got here. Talk about a hottie. Mind you she did pass on a great tip about what to do with those tacky undies Gerald keeps giving me for Christmas. Says a good friend told her about it. You give them to charity, and then claim the cost back against tax. And, here's the clever part, who's to say they weren't all from Janet Reger?"

I gaze further round the room. This time it's the Scotch that goes flying. "Good heavens, that old chap in all the ermine looks just like Arthur, your gardener."

"Sssh, he'll hear you. It is Arthur the gardener. A few of us thought it would be nice to get him something for his 75th birthday, you know a sit-down mower or something. Then someone had the bright idea of seeing if we could get him a BEM. So we all write off to Downing Street and blow me if they don't make him a life peer. Come on, let me introduce you to Lord Jones of Coldframe."

## Partying is such sweet sorrow

30 units a day?" My hostess may not have the most, but she does have a kind heart. "I think he'd say how about a nice fizzy mineral water. I'll get you one."

She returns and as I rehydrate, we review the assembled crowd together. "Slightly thinner on the ground aren't we this year?" I enquire. "One or two familiar faces missing. Where's Gerald?"

"Oh he's up in the attic, playing with his train set. Virtually keeps it under lock and key these days and I'm banned from entering attics. As if I'd want his silly trains. Not as if they're worth anything, is it?"

"Quickly, I change the subject. "And the twins, how are they getting on at their new boarding school? Somewhere in north Wales?"

"Yes, and they love it. More importantly, so do we — one-to-one tuition and 90-day terms. As for the

school trips... well that's why they're not here. At this moment Ronald is half way down the Nile, while Reginald, bless him, is getting in some early skiing — in Klosters, I think."

So it is one of these new selective grammar schools that John Fatten seems so keen on. One of the vocational ones?

"You could call it that..." This time my hostess changes the subject. "Ernily, will you stop pulling the arms off John Major! Goodness, I never thought I'd find myself missing those neutered teenage turtles, or whatever they were. But we'll now and what do we want John Major dolls, apparently. I mean it can't be healthy."

An angel passes. We both laugh.

"Lovely music you've got playing. Haven't you?" She pauses to listen. "No, I don't think so."

"No, on second thoughts, perhaps it isn't. I try again.

"So how's your mother? Can't see her walking frame anywhere. She's not..."

"No, don't be silly, she'll be down in a minute. She's in her bedroom — breast-feeding. What's left of my mineral water hits everyone within five yards."

"Yes, it was a bit of a shock. We all thought she'd run off to Italy on a flush of HRT. You know to find herself a toyboy. We never thought she'd come back with one five days old, shrouding 'meet your baby brother'. I mean, he's 46, years younger than I am. I'm feeling quite rejected." Her bottom lip quivers. Time for some chivalry.

"I think I'm ready for that drink. Shall I get us a couple of large Scotches?" She nods. The whiskey







## UNNATURAL CHILDBIRTH

Moral disquiet over designer babies would not make good law

The main purpose of medicine is to interfere with nature: to prevent the sick from dying, to correct the defects of those born with disabilities, and to slow the "natural" process of attrition which produces failing health in the old. New forms of medical intervention almost always produce disquiet. But in most contexts it is now accepted that the legitimate business of doctors and medical researchers is to circumvent or thwart the given order of things. So how disturbing should the latest developments in genetic engineering be? Certainly, the cases dominating the headlines seem to go beyond the bounds of medically necessary intervention.

In Rome, a black woman was implanted — at her own request — with the egg of a white woman and gave birth to a Caucasian child. She and her white husband chose this option for social reasons in what they considered to be the child's own interests. The fact that a black mother is choosing to produce children whose colour will be different from her own need not be a matter for concern — except perhaps to black pride activists who see it as a form of feminism. In Britain, the Bourn Hall Clinic in Cambridge has declared itself prepared to perform a similar implant of a white egg in a black woman, but only because no black eggs are available.

Contrary to the views of politically correct social workers, there should be no objection to black parents raising white or mixed race children (or vice versa), whether those children are adopted or conceived through insemination. However, racial differences between mother and child do serve to bring the revolutionary concept of "genetic demarcation" into focus. A couple choosing in advance the physical attributes of its prospective child seems to involve a principle even more morally contentious than racial awareness or straightforward infertility treatment.

What is being encouraged here is a deliberate flouting of nature. Where once the donors of egg and sperm were matched as closely as possible to the genetic profile of the prospective parents so as to emulate a natural result, the very opposite is now being practised. Parents may be allowed to pick from an array of attributes or characteristics whatever combination of genetic traits appeal to them. They are free to compose a human being of their own design which, in the normal biological course of events, they could not have produced.

There are good reasons why this notion strikes so many people as unsavoury. One is that it smacks of consumerism — of babies being custom-made to order, like a luxury artefact. That this service will probably only be available to the rich for the foreseeable future adds to the fear of decadence that babies might come to seem like toys whose features will be determined by cosmetic or whimsical considerations.

Even more disturbing are the Faustian implications. Medicine has tended to concentrate on forestalling death and relieving suffering. Sometimes it acts to end a potential life through abortion. But it now seems to be in the business of creating lives that could not otherwise have existed, and to be doing so on the basis of customer demand.

But vague ethical unease does not produce good law. Doctors may feel the need of professional guidelines; individual patients should certainly be carefully questioned — as prospective adopters are — about their motivations. But the having and raising of children is too intimate a part of life to be regulated by the blunt instrument of the law. No legislation could be framed to deal with the nuances and complexities of parental desire in a way which did not travesty them. This is a fit matter for public debate but it can be resolved only by private conscience.

## THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS

The secrets of Macmillan's annus horribilis

The year 1963 has entered national legend as one of turbulent political drama and radical cultural change. It was the year of the Profumo scandal, of Harold Macmillan's sensational resignation and Kennedy's assassination. But it was also the year of the Beatles' first LP in which, according to Philip Larkin, "sexual intercourse began" and the old order seemed to yield to iconoclastic youth. Today, many of its best kept secrets, enter the public domain under the 30-year rule; rarely has the animal deposit of classified government files in the Public Record Office been so eagerly awaited.

From this new archive emerge the nervous deliberations of a punch-drunk government lurching towards defeat, battered by scandal and riddled with intrigue. The partial ban on nuclear testing orchestrated by Macmillan in August was a remarkable achievement indeed; and it may be, as his official biographer has claimed, that the ageing prime minister would have survived the political traumas of 1963 to win the next election had he not been felled by his prostate gland in October. Yet there is little evidence in these files of political confidence or long-term strategic thinking.

After nearly seven years in power, Macmillan's arthritic administration increasingly took refuge in daydreams such as a grand anti-Communist alliance with the Vatican and a breakthrough European community which would exclude the perfidious French. The fall of John Profumo appears to have caught the Cabinet completely off guard. The files reveal its deep concern that four senior ministers had compromised themselves by advising the embattled War Minister to deny the charges against him in the Commons. At the high point of the scandal, ministers and officials could barely

contain their anger with the security services for failing to alert Macmillan to the brewing scandal earlier.

The scandal has often been described as the symbolic death throes of an Establishment in moral and political decay. This was certainly how Labour, now led by a technocrat in a Gamewell mac, wished it to be seen. Yet Profumo was scarcely the first powerful man in British public life to taste the forbidden pleasures of the bohemian underworld. What changed in 1963 was the attitude of the press to such indiscretions and its willingness to collude in official concealment. The drive for open government which is now transforming the PRO's disclosure rules has its roots in 1963.

Two of Macmillan's files on Profumo have been withheld from the public for further review and another closed indefinitely. But, to its credit, the government has released the majority of the relevant material, a disclosure which would have been unthinkable ten years ago. Much more disappointing is the decision to withhold so many of the files concerning security in 1963.

This was an inglorious period in the history of the intelligence services which were still reeling from the uncovering of the Cambridge spy ring and the treachery of W. John Vassall. For historians of Whitehall and espionage, the blank spaces in the catalogues will be a sore regret. Though it is conceivable that there is a limited amount of sensitive operational information in these documents, it is hard to believe that the national interest is best served by blanket secrecy so long after the event. The extraordinary history of 1963 will be incomplete until much more is known of these secret files which still gather dust in the locked cupboard of officialdom.

## SEVEN SWANS A-SWIMMING



On the seventh day of Christmas we somehow have to make hissing house-room for those misunderstood birds, the swans. In spite of the legend that they sing, swans, apart from the exotic *Cygnus musicus* which whistles tunelessly, are mute. They hiss in anger or fear. Their limited vocabulary extends to a trumpeting grunt and growls. Their name, unchanged from Old English, means "sunder", cognate with "sound", "sonnet" and "assonance". But swans' only song is the strange sighing of their wings as they fly. Above water they may glide around in a stately way, but below the surface those webbed feet are paddling powerfully, fast — and purposefully.

So poets must have been called swans for their rarity and beauty rather than their way with words. Ben Jonson called Shakespeare the swan of Avon, and Shakespeare fortified the myth by having Emilia in *Othello* say, just before she dies: "I will play the swan, and die in music." Coleridge supported the legend, attacking postmasters of his time: "Swans sing before they die; were no bad thing! Did certain persons die before they sing." In English metaphor, Homer is the swan of Meander, Virgil the swan of Mantua, and other more obscure poetic swans come from places with nothing in the way of water.

Another slander on swans comes from the new use of "to swan" as a verb meaning to move about freely in an apparently aimless

way; hence the noun, meaning an apparently aimless excursion, made for reconnaissance or pleasure. Real swans rarely move about without aim. The orthodox explanation, given by all etymological dictionaries high and low, is that this is slang from the desert campaign in the Second World War. For example, Viscount Montgomery, 1946: "A recurrence of what was then known in the Eighth Army as the 'annual swan' between Egypt and El Agheila."

It is not normally the role of editorials to correct etymology, or to defend swans, who can hiss for themselves. But the libel on swans as feckless wanderers is older than Alamein. It goes back to the Eighth Hussars in Egypt in 1935, when a rich young subaltern rode his polo ponies on too loose a rein, so that their heads hung down in an uncollected way, like swans. General Sir John Hackett, the scholar soldier, and others are still here to support this private and persuasive derivation.

Swans may seldom wander without purpose, but swanning around for no particular reason, the modern version of visiting Bunbury, is an admirable innovation. The young do it in their "gap" year, between school and what comes after. Wandering with a hungry heart and an inquisitive eye is better than the daily grind of routine. Swans may not be the best role models for this, or for song, but they are stuck with it. Especially at this time of year.

## Infertility and the older woman

From Professor Ian Craft

Sir, Surely it was only the dearth of major news this Christmas that resulted in such media preoccupation with the 59-year-old woman's successful birth of twins (reports, December 27, 28, 29, 30, 31). Its very profusion may in part have been due to the court order obtained by the parents to prevent media identification of what, for them, was a private arrangement with their medical advisers.

The extraordinarily disparaging and pontifical remarks from government officials, religious leaders and doctors (including some fertility specialists) clamoured for yet more government controls.

However, Simon Jenkins's perceptive article, "Only the parents can decide" (December 29), redresses the balance, pointing out the increasingly restrictive role played by central government in different aspects of interpersonal relationships, including the ability to procreate.

Perhaps the public are unaware that infertile women over the age of 40 wishing to have a child are being positively discriminated against, since they are now less likely to be successful, because of controls imposed on clinicians, than they were six years ago, when more flexible codes of practice were in operation. The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority now insists that only three eggs/embryos are used with assisted conception treatment.

The rationale for this imposition was to minimise the risk of multiple pregnancy but the philosophy was flawed from the outset because older women have a low risk of multiple pregnancy when using their own eggs. This is not so if donor eggs from younger women are used for treatment, as the current case illustrates.

We do not need more governmental controls — rather the converse. Clinicians need to be able to treat couples individually, to maximise their chances of having a single child. So let us not have an overreaction to a rare event by imposing an upper age limit.

One of the most worrying features of this recent outburst, to my mind, is the overt hypocrisy generated. The Office of Population Censuses and Surveys indicates that natural births do occur for women in their fifties, albeit infrequently, and most would support the right of the individual who requests termination of an unwanted natural pregnancy at that age. Why then is it such a national disaster for a couple to have a desired child?

What right have we to suggest that other governments should follow our recommendations when our own law allows late termination of pregnancy irrespective of a woman's age and there is no statute law to prevent conception?

It would be better if critics had, like Simon Jenkins, shown compassion, even if they had understandable concerns.

Yours faithfully,  
IAN CRAFT  
(Director),  
London Gynaecology  
& Fertility Centre,  
Cozens House, 112a Harley Street, W1.

## Private matters

From Mr J. A. Leavay

Sir, Where, in his article on the 59-year-old mother of twins, Simon Jenkins ("Only the parents can decide", December 29) offers the angry challenge, "What business is this of anyone else's?", a small light appears at the end of a long tunnel.

A journalist is challenging the right of critical interference in the "business" of an individual and since this is what your industry relies upon for much of your daily copy, it is to be welcomed.

Of course, the light will be quickly blown out but it was a moment of surprise and delight that such an uncharacteristic thought had occurred, even momentarily, to one of those who so regularly criticise the decisions, choices and private business of others.

Yours sincerely,  
J. A. LEAVEY  
20 Pembroke Gardens Close, W8,  
December 29.

## Time out of mind

From Professor Gerald Hendrie

Sir, I recently received a mailshot asking whether I thought my household insurance premium too high and inviting me to fill in a pro forma. A bonus was offered for its return by a certain date.

Since my premium, recently renewed, had risen by over 20 per cent this year (I had made no claim) I did indeed feel that I might be paying too much. The bonus looked attractive, too.

Unfortunately the mailshot was from my own insurers and the closing date for the bonus preceded that on the letterhead by several days. Could a connection exist between the higher premium and the cost of unnecessary and unworkable mailshots?

Yours sincerely,  
GERALD HENDRIE,  
The Garth,  
17 The Avenue,  
Dallington, Northampton.  
December 30.

Weekend Money letters, page 27

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 071-782 5000

### Scientists' view of stars and miracles

From the Astronomer Royal

Sir, In his article of December 27, "Miracle-working for beginners", William Rees-Mogg describes the Bishop of Durham as "truly silly"; he then goes on to describe miracles which were claimed to have happened some 850 years ago. I would have thought that David Jenkins's arguments deserved better treatment than that.

I go along with Rees-Mogg that science gives only an imperfect account of the nature of life and our own role in the universe. Many scientists are, in fact, not unhappy with the existence of a God of some form; but Revelation, by way of the appearance of a "human being" — Christ in the Christian version — creates difficulties.

Our knowledge of science has evolved with the passage of time, but many would deny the possibility of evolution in our knowledge of the early days of Christianity. This is where Bishop Jenkins comes in by endeavouring to make the case — a strong case — for stripping away many of the so-called miracles associated with Christ's ministry. The "star of Bethlehem" is a case in point — stars just don't behave in the manner claimed.

The media seem willing only to publicise the unceremonious of those who step out of line. We must hope, then, that, after the Bishop of Durham's well-earned retirement, other bishops will continue his efforts to support the evolution of Christian belief.

Yours sincerely,  
ARNOLD WOLFENDALE,  
University of Durham,  
Department of Physics,  
South Road, Durham,  
December 28.

From Mr Seweryn Chomet

Sir, As I understand him, the Bishop of Durham finds that Christian mythology helps him in his belief in God. Your columnist, William Rees-Mogg, who describes Professor Jenkins as "silly", believes that a 12th-century mystic called Wulfic "fed countless people on half a loaf" and performed a variety of other miracles.

Few of your readers will have much difficulty, on this evidence, in deciding who is the sillier of the two: the bishop or the columnist.

Yours faithfully,  
SEWERYN CHOMET,  
King's College London,  
Department of Physics,  
Strand, WC2,  
December 27.

### The royal family's working year

From Mr Tim O'Donovan

Sir, I have carried out a survey of the official engagements performed by the royal family during 1993, as reported in the Court Circular.

	A	B	C	D	E
The Queen	166	84	300	550	13
Duke of Edinburgh	175	134	32	341	53
Queen Mother	34	19	15	68	0
Prince of Wales	195	78	117	390	34
Princess of Wales	140	31	27	198	14
Duke of York	32	15	9	56	11
Prince Edward	115	85	38	238	61
Princess Royal	265	90	99	454	38
Princess Margaret	94	24	5	123	6
Duke of Gloucester	88	27	15	130	15
Duchess of Gloucester	101	21	7	129	2
Duke of Kent	146	40	31	217	29
Duchess of Kent	164	42	14	220	16
Princess Alexandra	100	27	13	140	17

A Official visits, opening ceremonies and other engagements  
B Receptions, lunches, dinners and banquets  
C Other engagements, including investitures, meetings attended and audiences given  
D Total number of engagements in the United Kingdom  
E Number of days spent travelling abroad on official tours.

On official tours abroad the Queen carried out 102 engagements; the Duke of Edinburgh carried out 240, the Prince of Wales 162, the Princess of Wales 70, the Duke of York 53, Prince Edward 231 and the Princess Royal 119.

The following members of the royal family carried out significantly more engagements in the UK and abroad

than in 1992: the Queen (64 more than in 1992), the Prince of Wales (92), Prince Edward (52), the Duchess of Kent (70). The Duke of York's official engagements are necessarily reduced, due to his duties as a serving officer in the Royal Navy.

Yours faithfully,  
TIM O'DONOVAN,  
Mariners, The Avenue,  
Datchet, Berkshire,  
December 31.

### Damage at Windsor

From Mr John Harris

Sir, Although it is some time since your architectural correspondent reported (December 13) the grave damage done by workmen to medieval wall paintings in King John's Tower, Windsor Castle, still no explanation has been offered by the Royal Works Directorate.

This is most disturbing, not only for many concerned historians and archaeologists, but also because we now know that this incident has been a well kept secret for a year.

Mr Michael Peat, who heads the directorate, should surely make a prompt statement on the exact extent of the damage, and assure us that in future works of this nature will be constantly monitored by historians. He should urgently refute rumours that even graver damage has been done elsewhere in the castle.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN HARRIS  
(President),  
International Confederation of  
Architectural Museums,  
16 Limerston Street, SW10,  
December 24.

### Expatriates' pensions

From Mr M. J. Thomas

Sir, In spite of economic problems the Government claims to care about pensioners. Why then is it doing nothing about the anomaly whereby more than 340,000 expatriate British OAPs have their pensions frozen at the level applying when they emigrated?

Parents of British emigrants often wish to spend their retirement near their children and grandchildren. Some who are now 90 or more receive pensions of less than £3 a week and even those who emigrated in the 1980s get less than half the pension now paid here. There are well over 100,000 each in Canada and Australia and more than 30,000 each in New Zealand and South Africa.

It is argued that the annual adjustments are linked to the UK rate of inflation, which is not relevant abroad. Then why are the annual increases paid to 235,000 British pensioners living in European Union countries, the US and elsewhere? Why

are they paid in Jamaica but not in Trinidad?

If it is a question of reciprocal arrangements, surely the Government could explore the possibility of extending these. The Australian government has shown interest but our own says that it would cost far too much to change the system. In that case could there not be at least some partial concession?

I know of elderly couples who have had to abandon hope of joining their families in Canada and Australia because of this injustice, though they have contributed to National Insurance all their working lives. If nothing else moves the Government except financial considerations it might reflect that these people will almost certainly add in time to the demands on the NHS and social services in the UK.

Yours faithfully,  
M. J. THOMAS,  
Ger-y-Coed, Capel Coch,  
Llangefni, Gwynedd,  
December 29.

### Tory help for Bush

From Sir John Lacy

Sir, In your issue of December 22 references were made (reports and leading article) to the Conservatives' help for President Bush in the 1992 US election campaign, and how this could have damaged the special Anglo-American relationship.

As one of those who accepted an invitation from the Bush campaign team to advise them on their election strategy, I reiterate that this was a personal invitation and whilst I went with the knowledge of the Conservative Party chairman, in no way was I representing the Conservative Party.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN LACY  
(General Director of Party  
Campaigning, Conservative Central  
Office, 1989-92),  
18 Windmill Close,  
Milford-on-Sea, Hampshire,  
December 24.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

## Time to break our holiday habits?

From Mr John F. Martin

Sir, Spending Christmas in California, weather apart, is much the same as spending it in England. There are the same religious and secular festivities and shops and the media are heavily Christmas-orientated.

There is, however, a major difference. Christmas Day itself is the only holiday and Monday was not a holiday to compensate for Christmas falling on a Saturday. Boxing Day and New Year's Day are not holidays.

Thus, effectively, over the period there is no interference to production and commercial activity. Indeed, on Christmas Day the local daily paper here was published and delivered. By contrast, in England three working weeks are effectively disrupted. Surely it is worthy of Monty Python that New Year's Day is celebrated on January 3, ensuring that the year's first working week is reduced to four days.

Britain's GNP is inevitably reduced as a result of this period of inactivity, at a time when there is serious concern for the nation's deficit on overseas trade. "Long holiday break could cost £5bn in lost production", report, December 30. Surely it is time for British public holidays to be reduced or abolished to reflect changing times and possibly for the labour force to be given an extra five days' annual holiday by way of compensation.

Yours truly,  
JOHN F. MARTIN,  
120 Bridgeside Circle,  
Danville, California 94526,  
December 29.

From Mrs A. Craine

Sir, Why does the entire country shut down for at least a week? Why, oh why, is there no public transport on Christmas Day, and only minimal transport on Boxing Day? Why are all museums closed? Who makes these decisions and thereby condemns millions of people to a hellish holiday?

As a Canadian, living here for the past five years, I am utterly bemused by such a Christmas. In Canada we pay employees double time to work these days and thousands choose to do so, thereby ensuring a "public" Christmas and the continuation of real life.

I am aware that one shouldn't be caught dead in London at Christmas. Country hotels and country houses, we are told, throng with guests and hilarity, horses, dogs, real wood fires and so on. What is there for the working family in the cities but mindless hours of TV in little rooms, or a sudden walk down the street in the rain?

Is this a plot by the "upper" classes to keep the poor in their dreary place? Are modest-income families not supposed to enjoy Christmas?

Yours faithfully,  
ANNE CRAINE,  
Flat 2, 32 Connaught Square, W2,  
December 24.

### Sunday trading

From Mr John R. Sharp

Sir, One cannot argue with Sir Nicholas Fairbairn's subjective view (letter, December 27) about whether or not Sunday can be regarded as special, but when it comes to the question of opening hours generally, his assertion of "humbly" is no substitute for logic. The argument about when goods and services should be available should stand from the principle of whether or not they are necessarily used at the time of delivery.

There are usually alternatives to the delivery of a three-piece suite or a garden shed at 10.30pm on a Sunday. There is no such choice on whether or not to have energy for the freezer or the central heating delivered at that time.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN R. SHARP,  
55 Twining Brook Road,  
Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire,  
December 28.

### Sound bites

From Mr Bevis Brock

Sir, Bats in the belfry are an accepted part of church life, but mice in the organ must be unusual.

In the rural church of which I am a churchwarden, I was recently dismayed to find that seven of the black notes of the organ had been almost entirely demolished by mice, leaving a mound of shredded ebony over the keyboard. The ivories were untouched.

Assuming that the nutritional value of rather aged ebony is almost nil, I would be fascinated to know the motivation for this strangely selective diet. Is the current trend to mindless violence spreading to the rodent population?

Yours faithfully,  
BEVIS BROCK,  
Willow Cottage, Burcombe,  
Salisbury, Wiltshire,  
December 29.

### Cleanliness for all

From Mrs Michael Tulyer

Sir, As a postscript to Christmas our home has a new definition of ecumenical: Anglican and Catholic altar linen in the washing machine together.

Yours faithfully,  
PATRICIA TAYLER,  
The Old Paragon, Aust, Bristol,  
Boxing Day.



## Anniversaries this weekend

## Universities

**Queen's Belfast**  
**Distinctions**  
Peter Toner, Musgrave Professor of Pathology, has been appointed Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Pathology*.  
Ingrid Allen, Professor of Neuropathology, has been elected Vice-President of the Royal College of Pathologists.  
Janet Trewsdale, Lecturer in Economics, has been appointed to the Northern Ireland Economic Council, for four years.  
John Rooney, Professor of Catalytic Chemistry, has been awarded the F.G. Ciapetta Lectureship in Catalysis by the Catalysis Society of North

**America:**  
Dr. Rex Caichart, Assistant Director, School of Education, has been elected a Fellow of the Psychological Society of Ireland.  
**Pro-Vice-Chancellor and White House:** Dr. Therapeutics and Pharmacology Robin Shmies has been elected President of the Ulster Medical Society for 1993-4.  
**Member of Senate, and the University's former Senior Medical Officer:** Dr. Ian Hartland, is to be installed as a Fellow of the Institute of Sports Medicine at a ceremony in the Royal College of Surgeons in London.  
**President of the American Engineering** Ron Perrott has been invited to join the United Kingdom's Information Technology Advisory Board (ITAB).  
**Professor of Paleontology:** Michael J. Benton has been elected as a recipient of the Pomerance Award of the Archaeological Institute of America for scientific contributions to archaeology.

The title of Professor Emeritus has been conferred on Dr R. J. C. Dorman, Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the Royal Victoria and Royal Maternity Hospitals; Dr B. A. Stevens, Consultant in Occupational Medicine in the Royal Hospitals Trust; Dr H. McA. Teggart, Consultant Physician in Geriatric Medicine in the Belmont Hospital; and Dr V. Walsh, Consultant in Pathology, with a special interest in Dermatopathology, in the Royal Victoria and Belmont City Hospitals.



By JOHN SHAW

ever, 300 items went on view earlier this year in the first private loan exhibition at The Hermitage, St Petersburg.

Negotiations had taken six years to conclude and the show attracted 3,000 visitors a day. There was similar acclaim when it moved to the Pushkin Museum, Moscow.

For a return favour, Mr Ortiz persuaded museum officials in Kiev, the Ukraine

and elsewhere to let him choose a similar group which went on view in an exchange exhibition in Zurich.

The spin-off helped foster cultural relations and also established new links between museums outside Moscow and the art world in Europe.

The Ortiz display now moves to London. It is one of the academy's two main win-

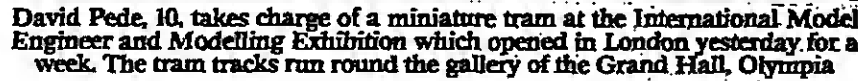
ter shows and runs from January 20 to April 6. The art of ancient Greece is the centrepiece.

also caused by environmental lead. Some historians challenge these views as naïve or going beyond the evidence, but a survey by Dr. A. C. Auferheide and his colleagues shows that the historians may themselves be guilty of simplification. A study of 20 archaeological population samples, spanning the 1500-year period from 800 BC to

AD 700, shows clear changes in bone lead content. "Populations prior to 200 BC incorporated no more lead than do modern North Americans," the researchers report in the *International Journal of Anthropology*, with less than 20 parts per million.

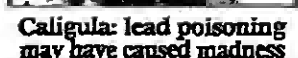
"Values during the Roman period are more than tenfold greater and remain substan-

tially elevated for about four centuries. It is apparent that the pattern parallels that of estimated world lead produc-



BY NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

Coincidentally, Dr Antonis Bartsiokas of Liverpool University and Professor Michael Day of the Natural History Museum have carried out an analysis of the Broken Hill



**Mr M.W. Benson  
and Miss H.C. Hindler**  
The engagement is announced  
between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs  
Neil Benson, and Hazel, daughter  
of Mrs Helga Hindler and Mr Eric  
Hindler.

**Mr A.K. Ward  
and Miss R.F. Kintoch**  
The engagement is announced  
between Ashley, younger son of  
Mr Keith Ward, of Loxwood, West  
Sussex, and Miss Robin Ward, of  
Linton, South Lincolnshire, and

Rachel, younger daughter of Mr. Colin Kinloch, of Tenterden, Kent, and Mrs. Claire Kinloch, of Sedlescombe, East Sussex.  
Mr H.A. Wesemael  
and Miss E.C. Hair  
The engagement is announced.

between Hugo, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Daniel Wesemael, of Swindon, Wiltshire, and Lyn, daughter of the late Mr Bart Hair, and of Mrs J. Hair, of Stonehouse, Gloucestershire.

and Miss G.D. Cumberland-Brown  
The engagement is announced between Anthony John MacArthur, elder son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel P.A.B. Wickham and of Mrs David

Mr R.S.B. Williams  
and Miss G.E. Schick  
The engagement is announced

between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs R.B. Williams, of Belfast, and Gillian, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs R.A. Schlich, of Uppingham, Rutland.

## Marriages

**Captain C.R. Renwick  
and Mrs J.A. Lyles**  
A service of blessing was held  
yesterday at St Andrew's, Bolam,  
Northumberland, after the mar-  
riage of Captain Charles Renwick,  
eldest son of Sir Richard and Lady  
Renwick, of Widdowburn House,

Wharton, in Wharton House, Wharton, Morpeth, Northumberland, to Mrs. Jane Ann Lyles, daughter of Mr and Mrs Stuart Bush, of Holly Farm, Wendling, Norfolk. Canon W. Alder Goffin officiated.

Mr V. Home

The marriage took place on December 31, 1993, at Gretna Green, of Vincent, younger son of Mr and Mrs Colin Hope, of Welford-on-Avon, Warwickshire, and Anna, daughter of Mr and

Mrs. Stuart Ormiston Forster, of Alnwick, Northumberland.  
Mr. M. Levy and Miss L. Coakley  
Martin Levy and Lisa Coakley were married yesterday, quietly in Beverly Hills.

**Mr K.D. McAllister**  
and **Mrs H.A. Clayton**  
The marriage took place on  
Wednesday, December 29, at Chel-  
sea Register Office, followed by a  
blessing at the Church of Scotland  
in Paris, of Mr Kenneth McAllister  
and Mrs H.A. Clayton.

The marriage took place on December 24, 1993, between Major John A.N. Yarwood, USAF, ret., of Pensacola, Florida, USA, and

ows traces of

GERMAN archaeologists, in a survey of the area, have found numerous early sites similar to those in Britain at the same periods (Norman Hammond writes). Photography carried out as far east as the Elbe, in former East Germany, has yielded evidence of Neolithic settlements, Iron Age funerary enclosures and Roman villas, the latter especially along the border between Trier and Koblenz.

"Possibly the single most important site in this area is a 300-metre-long cursus," said Mr James Pickering, who has been flying with the German aerial archaeologist Herr Otto Braasch.

The cursus, an elongated parallel-sided enclosure of unknown function, is similar to examples known from near Stonehenge and elsewhere in this country. "As far as I know, this is the first such cursus found in Britain," Mr Pickering said.

[illegible]

**D** and Sunday after Christmas.  
**CANTUARY CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC  
9:45 M; 11 S Euch; Missa Sancti Nicolai (Haydn), Hodie Christus natus est (Poulenc), The Prodigal Son, Stabat Mater, C. 63 Congregational Carol Service.  
**CARLISLE CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC  
10:30 S Euch; In dulci jubilo (Buxtehude), Mass in C (Beethoven), Fantasia in G (Bach), The Lord's Prayer.

**CHESHAM FORD CATHEDRAL:** 7:30 MP; 8 HC; 9:30 Parish C. Rev Jacob Jones; 11:55 Euch; In Dulci Jubilo (Pearall), Missa Aeterna Christi Munera (Palestrina), Canon Michael Rees; 6 Choral E.; Sanders in A. Howells in B minor. Canon Paul Brett.

**CHESTER CATHEDRAL:** 7:45 Lte B; 8 HC; 10 Family Euch; 11:30 in F; Canon Colin Benipps; 11:45 in D; Canon Michael Rees; 3:30 Choral E.; Brewer in D; 6:30 E. Cathedral Voluntary Choir. Canon Michael Rees.

**CLYDE CONVENT CATHEDRAL:** 7:40 MP; 8 S; 10:30 Euch; Ireland in C. Canon Paul Oestreicher; 5:30 E. Durum.

**DURHAM CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC; 10:10 Canon Perry; 11:15 H.C. The Freeman; 3:30 E.

**EAST CATHEDRAL:** 8:15 HC; 10:30 S Euch; Te Deum (Williams). Brightest and best (Archer). Canon Kece; 3:45 E. Walsley in D minor.

**LINCOLN CATHEDRAL:** 7:45 Lte B; 8 HC; 9:20 S Euch; 11:15 M; 12:15 H.C. 12 Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.

**LILFELD CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC  
10:30 S Euch; Schubert in C. Fr. Preb Tony Sadler; 3:30 E. Sunston in G.

**LILLANDALE CATHEDRAL:** 7:30 AM; 8 Euch; Rev S P Kirk; 9 Parish Euch; Sunston in F; 12:15 Holy Communion; 3:30 Choral E.; Brewer in D; 6:30 Parish E.; Rev JF Redvers Harris.

**SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL:** 7:30 AM; 8:15 HC; 10:30, 12:00, 5:00 M.

**WELLS CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC  
9:45 S Euch; Missa Brevis (Kodaly); Preb DC Goodman; 11:30 M; Tui sunn cast (Lassus); 3 E. Sunston in C. Fr. Preb Rev Bowman Smith.

**WESTMINSTER ABBEY:** 8 HC  
10 M. Stanford in B flat; Rev Paul Bates; 11:15 Euch; Schubert in G; Rev Paul Ferguson; 3 E. Wood in E flat No. 2; Rev Ralph Goddard; 5:45 OC; 6:30 E. Westminsterehead; 6:30 ES. Rev Michael Hayes.

**WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL:** 7, 8, 9, 12, 5, 12, 3, 7; 10:00 MP; 10:30 Solemn M; 3:30 VB&S; 3:50.

**YORK MINISTERS:** 8, 8:45 HC; 10:30, 12:00, 3:30 Parish C. Canterbury; 11:30 M. Dyson in F & 4 Aestas in F. Canon John Toy.

**ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL:** Clywd; 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch. Mass of the Quiet Hour (Oldroyd). Chorus and two voices on a Noel (Dupre). The Dean.

**ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL,** Southwark; 8, 6 LM; 10:00 Family M; 11:30 Solemn M; Fr Patrick Turner.

**ST HIGGS CATHEDRAL,** Edinburgh; 8 HC; The Minister; 10 HC; Moderator; the General Assembly; 11:30 MS; The Moderator; 8 ES; The Minister.

**ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL,** London; 8 HC; 10:30 M. Vaughan Williams in G; 11:30 HC; Missa Brevis in C; Midway; 3:15 E. The Second Service (Orby). Fr Prout; 4:30 E. Rev Alan Wyne.

**ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL,** Dundee; 8 HC; 9:40 Sung C; 11 Choral Euch; Rev G Greig; 6:30 Choral E.; Rev G Greig.

**ALL SAINTS,** Margaret St. WI; 8, 5:15 LM; 10:00 MP; 11 HM; Dante in F; Rev P Johnston; 4:30 EP.

**ALL SOULS,** Langham Place. WI; 9 G; 11 Rev John Stott; 6:30 Rev Richard Beves.

**AMERICAN CHURCH IN LONDON,** Tottenham Court Rd. WI; 9:45 Sunday School; 11 Worship. Rev James Schmitt.

**THE ASSUMPTION,** Warwick Street, WI; 11 Missa omni Maria (Hassler), Carols.

**CHRISTA OLD CHURCH,** SW2; 8 HC; 10 Children's Service; 11 Parish C. Rev F Fry, Addington.

**THE HOLY TRINITY CHURCH OF SCOTLAND,** Cowan; Gardies; WC2; 11:15 Rev Roger Dean.

**HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON,** Brompton Road, SW7; 9 HC; Thomas Peck; 11 Informal Service; Jeremy Johnson; 10 Informal Service; Jamie Hall.

**THE ORATORY,** Brompton Road, SW7; 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 30, 4:30, 7 M; 3:30 VB&S; 10 Mass in flat; 3:50 Resonet in Laudibus (Handel).

**WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist),** SW1; 11 Methodist Covenant Service; Rev Dr John Tudor.

**ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran),** Gresham St, EC2; 11 Choral Euch; 12:15 Rev R. Swaffill HC; Rev Francis Kirg; 7 Choral M; Rev Ronald T Englund.

**ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT,** Smithfield, EC1; 9 HC; 11 Choral Euch; with Baptism; Rev Canon Wynne; 6:30 Choral E. Rev Arthur Wing.

**ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4-11;** Choral M & Euch; Wesleys Short Service; Canon John Oates; 6:30 Choral E.; Sunston in C; Canon John Oates.

**ST CLEMENT DANES;** 9 HC; 11 Choral Euch; Collegium Regale (Howells). The Lamb (Taverner). Rev G McAra.

**ST GUMBURY'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND,** Port Street, SW1; 11, 6:30 Rev Eleanor J McMahon.

**ST ELYEDREDA'S,** Elm Place; 11 Sung M; Missa simpliciter (Langlais). There is no rose (Briten). In dulci jubilo (Bach).

**ST GEORGES,** Hanover Square; WI; 8:30 HC; 11 S Euch; Ashfield in C; The Pastor.

**ST LUKE'S,** Chelsea; 8, 12:15 HC; 11:20 S Euch.

**Rev Derek Watson;** 6:30 EP.

**ST MARK'S,** Regents Park Rd, NW1; 8 HC; 9:45 Family C; 11 S Euch; Missa Secunda (Hassler). Rev Joe Humble.

**ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS,** WC2; 8 HC; 9:45 Euch; The Vicar; 11:15 Morning Prayer; London Service; Rev William Rathbone; 12:30 HC; 2:45 Church Service; Rev Gilbert Lee; S Choral E; 6:30 ES. Rev Bernhard Schummacher.

**ST MARY-TH-VIRGIN,** Primrose Hill; 8 HC; 10:30 Parish Euch; 11:15 H.C. 12 Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.

**ST MARVLEBOROUGH,** Marvleborne Road, WI; 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch; Rev Peter Wells; 6:30 Ministry of Healing, The Rectory.

**ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1;** 8, 9 HC; 11 Solemn Euch; Missa a 4 V. Canon John Rees. Rev Christopher Courtland.

**ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1;** 8:15 HC; 10 Family Euch; 11 S Euch; Rev Fr Ashley Buck.

**CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace;** 6:30 HC; 11:15 S Euch; Stanford in B flat, Canon MA Monro.

**CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCLUA,** Tower of London; 10 HC; Canon J G M W Murphy.

**CHAPEL ROYAL,** Hampton Palace; 8:20 M & Lte; 11 Choral Euch; Staughtin in D; 3:30 E. Gibbons Short Service.

**GROSVENOR CHAPEL,** South Audley Street; WI; 11 S Euch; Missa O Magnum Mysterium (Victoria). O beatum et Sacrosanctum thiem (Philips). In dir ist missa (Bach).

**QUEENS CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY,** WC2; 11 S Euch; Three Part (Byrd). The Chaplain.

**THE TEMPLE CHURCH,** Fleet Street; 8:30 HC; Rev Macpherson in E. The Mass.

**GUARDS CHAPEL,** Wellington Barracks, SW1; 11 Choral HC; Schubert in G; The Rev Gus Claxton, Band of the Blues and



## OBITUARIES

## SIR WILLIAM GARTHWAITE, Bt

Lieutenant-Commander Sir William Garthwaite, 2nd Bt, DSC and Bar, aviator, died on December 15 aged 87. He was born on January 3, 1906.

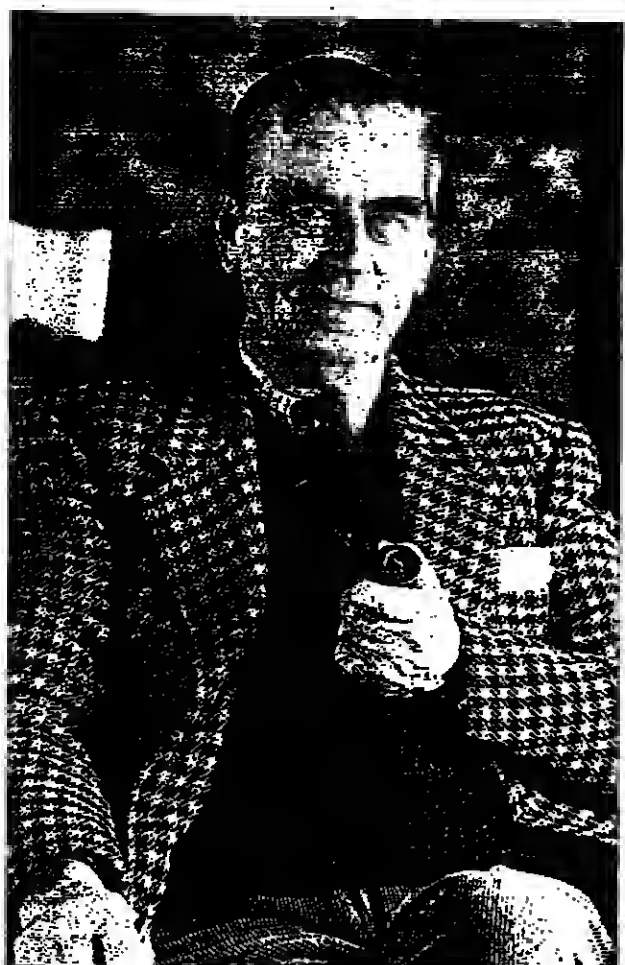
THE *Sporting Life* in an interview with William Garthwaite last November headed the article "A cross between Bond and Biggles — all in one". He could equally well have been described as "the complete 20th-century man". He certainly experienced most of the great events and changes of his time. He lived through two world wars — flying a Swordfish against the *Bismarck* in the second; fought three elections as a Conservative (all before the end of the war); and, through his first wife (daughter of the art mogul Lord Draxman), enjoyed the high-rolling world of the interwar years. After 1947, he settled down to the more subdued life of being chairman of a large insurance broker. He was possibly the only man to have been a crew member of a windjammer and to hold a jet pilot's licence — all within a period of just 28 years.

The son of the first baronet, also Sir William Garthwaite, William Francis Garthwaite was educated at Bradfield and Hertford College, Oxford (where he briefly overlapped with Evelyn Waugh, thereby earning an honourable mention in *Brideshead Revisited*). After coming down from Oxford in 1927 he was sent off by his father, a shipowner, to Adelaide on the four-masted barque, the *Garthpool* (997 tonnes). She journeyed out with a ballast cargo of iron in order to ferry grain back from Australia — she was the last square-rigger under the Commonwealth flag (sinking in 1932 off Cape St. Verde). The voyage took 91 days.

Some of the more colourful moments, as recalled by Garthwaite, were the disembarkation at Dublin effectively to press-gang (with the aid of alcohol) more crew members; doing 16 knots over 36 hours in a hurricane with just the stick (ie no sails); and, most significantly, overtaking a tramp steamer in the Roaring Forties and mischievously offering her a tow. Danger was ever-present — one member of the crew lost his footing in the rigging and perished in the ice-cold water.

Having survived this endurance test, the young Garthwaite, understandably took a landlubbers' route back home via India — where, among other things, he stayed with the legendary iron-ore prospector Gordon Duff, much to the cost of some of the local wildlife.

Recognising that air travel represented the wave of the future, Garthwaite started to fly in 1928 (obtaining a licence that he kept until he was 76).



Sir William Garthwaite and, above, with his plane in the Western Desert in 1942.

When the Second World War broke out, he joined the Fleet Air Arm after initially being rejected by the RAF on the ground of colour blindness. After a spell in Coastal Command, mine-laying over Norway, he arrived on HMS *Victorious*, in May 1941. He was almost immediately ordered — with the pilots of eight other Fairey Swordfish — to take off into action against the *Bismarck*. After two hours and ten minutes of flying they managed to locate the German battleship. The attack was credited with two hits by the *Bismarck's* survivors — and Garthwaite, always claimed that his "fish" ruptured the *Bismarck's* oil tanks thus slowing down her speed by some five knots. In very high seas, all the Swordfish managed successfully to complete a night landing — his first in Garthwaite's own case. For this exploit he was awarded the DSC.

His second DSC was won in Malta, where he joined the famous 830 Squadron between July 1941 and January 1942, to be in charge of six "electronically equipped aircraft" (meaning they had radar). Feeling he could only order others to do what he would do himself, he generally acted as "pathfinder" and "flare-dropper" in the night attacks against Rommel's shipping. This was a particularly hazardous role, since the flares would naturally light up the pathfinder aircraft. In this period 830 Squadron managed to sink or disable some 100,000 tonnes of Rommel's

shipping, thereby significantly limiting his campaigns in Libya.

After December 1942, Garthwaite was put in charge of 842 Squadron and eventually became First Chief Pilot to the Admiralty. His excitement did not end with VE-Day. In 1945 he was posted to Naval Intelligence with a brief to find suitable sites for naval air stations (in China, Japan, Singapore and India). Arriving in Hong Kong he found the airport runway too short (and menaced by a threatening hill). He commandeered a troop of Japanese POWs and solved two problems simultaneously — off came the top of the hill which was trundled along the existing runway into the sea. Having also commandeered the entire army cement supply, he used it to cover the sunken hilltop and thus extend Chai-Tek airport.

His love of flying continued after the war — almost to the cost of his life when, in 1955, the landing gear of a Vampire (an early jet) failed. In all, he claimed to have flown 72 separate types of aircraft — always recalling his most anxious experience as being flying a Liberator by hand — since his "George" had failed — for 14 hours across the Atlantic in 1942.

Garthwaite's life was varied in many other aspects. He fought three parliamentary elections. At the Yorkshire mining seat of Hemsworth in 1931, he was lucky to save his deposit and his life (given that an effort was made to sabotage his car). He was perhaps even more fortunate to find accommodation since no one would put him up — because of the risk that any hotel which lodged the Conservative candidate of the National government might be burnt down. The young apprentice politician eventually knocked on the door of Hockham Hall, where he found sanctuary. In 1935, at the Isle of Ely, he lost by 664 votes to a Rothschild (considered a moral victory in what was then a Liberal seat). He was less lucky in 1945, coming bottom of the poll at Wolverhampton East, one of the seats gained by Labour from a sitting Liberal MP. But he never lost his interest in politics, becoming chairman of the Turnbridge Wells Conservative Association for many years.

After the war, Garthwaite — though still under 40 — followed gentler pursuits. Much of his time was spent as chairman of Sir William Garthwaite, a sizeable marine insurance company. By using his Naval Intelligence pass to obtain entry to Japan in 1946,

he managed to contact his old pre-war clients in Japan before the Americans "got to them" and, in particular, formed a long and close relationship with Nissan Fire and Marine. But he was never satisfied by Lloyd's alone. In the 1930s he started up a small aircraft business at Croydon airport in competition with Freddie Laker. Then, in 1961, he bought a 320-acre horticultural farm in Kent (not one to accept the sober conventions of age, he purchased in 1961 a splendid yellow V-12 Lamborghini Islero S — one of the few that remain).

The annual vehicle service provided an excuse for a two-month trip each year, which would conveniently pass many of his friends in France and Italy. Such technical problems as a broken windscreen wipers could be easily solved

by driving at over 100mph — "then the water does not stay on the windscreen". Only last July he was still touring the Continent in the "yellow peril".

His lust for speed and chance also drew him to racehorses though few that he bought proved fast enough to win races. He derived, however, great pleasure from the turl and was delighted when his horse Apollo King managed to win the Horse and Hound Cup in 1991. At the time of his death he still had three horses in training at Epsom Downs.

Garthwaite was three times married. He is survived by his third wife, Patricia, their three sons, together with the son of his second marriage, William Mark Charles Garthwaite, who becomes the third baronet.

## PATRICK LITTLE

Patrick Little, medical editor at the *World Health Organisation* and former assistant editor at the *Lancet*, died on December 14 aged 40. He was born on December 13, 1953.

WHEN friends telephoned Patrick Little in Geneva to ask which wines they should order that night at one of Burgundy's best restaurants, he got straight into his car and drove the four hours to Poligny Monachet to make sure that they got the very best advice and attention. The act reflects his spontaneity, his obsession with quality and detail and his delight in other people's pleasure.

Patrick William Anthony Little was a renaissance figure and a bon vivant. Dogged by ill-health for most of his adult life he yet achieved excellence in a range of disciplines, effortlessly mastering whatever engaged his agile and enquiring mind. To everything he did — as a doctor, an editor, and a connoisseur of fine food and wines — he brought a penetrating intellect and infectious enthusiasm.

From an early age he showed his preference for the good things in life. Quick to try new skills, he moved easily through school on as little work as necessary. He studied medicine at Trinity College, Dublin, following the family tradition. While there he developed kidney failure, diagnosed by chance on a blood test taken during a racing session.

Despite the ensuing illness he qualified in 1978, but the need for regular dialysis made working as a doctor impossible. In 1982 he joined the editorial staff of the *Lancet*, but after two years found himself unable to continue because of repeated bouts of illness.

A kidney transplant in 1984 restored him to full health, and he returned to medicine, deciding on a career in pathology and quickly progressing to become a lecturer and senior registrar at Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School.

In 1990 he moved back to medical editing, this time in the publications unit of the World Health Organisation in

Geneva, where his intellect and meticulous eye for detail earned him widespread respect.

He had a talent for friendship but did not suffer fools. A tall, elegant man, he could appear aloof until his interest was aroused. Then he showed his skill at bringing out the best in people with his ready warmth and humour, cutting across differences in age, background, and nationality. He was a great mimic and loved to play to an audience, but he did not need to be the centre of attention and was not averse to using his illness as an excuse for spending time alone reading and listening to music. Talking to him on any subject was often humbling and always exciting.

As a patient he could be both difficult and demanding — being articulate, perfectionist, and medically trained — but he never once complained about his illness. He joked about the inconvenience and discomfort and turned restrictions into opportunities.

Faced with a low salt, low protein diet he took an interest in cooking and quickly became a brilliant and inspirational cook.

His enthusiasm for good food led him on to the serious study of wines, and both enthusiasms found expression in his love of France, which went far beyond the superficial.

Illness may have saved him from a more traditional route through life, but his early death has robbed the many people who knew him of a fascinating, funny and immensely knowledgeable companion.



## THE RT REV RICHARD DARBY

The Right Rev Richard Darby, Bishop of Sherwood, 1975-89, died on December 26 aged 74. He was born on February 28, 1919.

"DICK" DARBY was the very model of a suffragan bishop. In no sense academic, his gifts were predominantly pastoral, although he also had considerable ability as a preacher. Promoted to the episcopal bench at the relatively late age of 55, he saw the Southwell diocese through two interregnums and, in the view of many, had all the capacity to have been a diocesan bishop himself. A warm and humane personality, he always commanded affection well beyond the boundaries of the Church.

Harold Richard Darby was born in England but brought up in China where his parents were Salvation Army missionaries. He was educated at the Cathedral School in Shanghai, began to train as an accountant but then took a job as a customs officer, being sent to Hong Kong where he was in charge of the narcotics squad. While there he enrolled in the Hong Kong Volunteers, the Crown Colony's equivalent of the Territorials. Captured when Hong Kong fell to the Japanese on Christmas Day 1941, he spent four years as a prisoner of war, latterly as a coal-miner in Japan. It was an experience he seldom spoke about, although it left him with physical as well as psychological scars.

On his return to Britain at the age of 26, Darby had already made up his mind that he wanted to train for the ministry. He went first to a pre-theological course at Hawarden and then on to St John's College, Durham, where he took a degree in geology before spending a fourth year tackling the General Ordination Exam. Despite not being a natural scholar, he sailed through and

was duly ordained in 1950, serving his curacy at Leyton Parish Church. He was to work for the next 20 years in the Chelmsford diocese, eventually progressing to be vicar of the large suburban parish of Waltham Abbey, where he was responsible for the restoration of the old Abbey Church.

It may have been this achievement which attracted the interest of the private patron of the even more ancient Abbey of Battle in Sussex, to the vicarage and deanery of which Darby was preferred in 1971. The deanery of Battle (like that of Bocking in Essex) has always been something of an anomaly within the Anglican Church and the occupancy of either by no means presupposes an automatic right to further promotion. Darby himself was certainly genuinely astonished when, five years later, he was invited to take up a suffragan bishopric. The invitation came from the then Bishop of Southwell, John Wakeling, who hailed from the Chelmsford diocese and knew of Darby's work there. Despite an initial sense of bewilderment — "I've been asked to become a bishop, what do you think I should do about it?" he enquired of a

friend — Darby eventually accepted and went off to work for the first time in his life in the northern province.

In the Midlands he soon found himself very much at home. There was still then a Nottinghamshire coalfield and even his Japanese experience down the pits came in useful. Not that the new bishop ever pretended to be anything that he was not. His hobby had long been vintage cars and he would quite unashamedly keep two ancient Bentleys on the go at the same time (though in truth he had probably restored both of them himself).

He remained 14 years in the Southwell diocese serving under three successive diocesan bishops. He was for five years chairman of the board of governors of the high-security Rampton Special Hospital at Retford — carrying on with this work once he had left Southwell — and did much to restore morale there after it had been through some turbulent times. Darby retired in 1989, being awarded an honorary DD by Nottingham University in that year, and went to live in Lincolnshire where he served as an assistant bishop.

He is survived by his wife Betty, three daughters and two sons.



The Rt Rev Richard Darby in 1949 with the Mark 6 Bentley which he restored himself.

## SWIFTY LAZAR

Irving "Swifty" Lazar, Hollywood literary and talent agent, died on December 30 aged 86. He was born in Stamford, Connecticut, on March 28, 1907.

ONE of the best literary agents in the business, Irving Lazar, always known as "Swifty", possessed in abundance the sort of bravado and flair that Hollywood has always rewarded. Indeed, to Lazar publishing and show business were one and the same thing. His net spread over the years to include not just writers but theatre directors, actors and politicians. Cole Porter, Ernest Hemingway, Franco Zeffirelli and Vladimir Nabokov were among his clients and when ex-President Nixon was looking for the right man to sell his memoirs in 1978, it was Lazar who managed to negotiate for him a publishing advance of \$1.6 million.

In later years Lazar was known as the king of Hollywood's most exclusive post-Dscar party, held at Spago's, invitations for which were considered by some more of a coup in entertainment circles than for the award ceremony itself.

Over the years there were probably more myths circulating about the diminutive Lazar than about anyone else in Hollywood, and his friends added to them by lampooning him in their work. The screenwriter George Axelrod wrote him into *Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter* (1957) as Irving "Sneaky" Lasalle. Joseph Heller padded out the rumour that Lazar was terrified of germs. The first time he arrived for a meeting with Heller, so the story went, Lazar produced a can of anti-toxic concentrate and liberally sprayed all present, before spraying the



first can with a second can of the same stuff.

Heller was also the source of the theory that Lazar was too busy with his deals to read the books he handled. To confirm this, the medical writer Alan Jay Lerner taped certain pages of *An American in Paris* together before sending it to Lazar. The book was returned with the pages still glued together, accompanied by a note from Lazar declaring it to be "a work of art".

It was Humphrey Bogart who gave "Swifty" his nickname. In 1955 Bogart challenged Lazar to make five film deals for him in one day. Lazar started at midday, and wound up the five contracts by six o'clock — though he admitted that Bogart was not a hard man to sell at the time. Lazar was one of the few friends, with John Huston and Frank Sinatra, who visited Bogart daily when the star was dying from cancer in 1957.

Irving Paul Lazar graduated with a degree in law from St Lawrence University, and was called to the Bar in 1931. He began his career as an attorney with the MCA talent agency, but decided to set up on his own when he realised that MCA's cut of a deal was a

10 per cent to his 1 per cent.

He started modestly enough as a bandsman's agent, and his involvement with writers came about later almost by accident. During the Second World War when he was in the Army Air Corps, Lazar was summoned to the Pentagon to meet General Henry "Hap" Arnold, commander of the USAAF. Arnold was envious of the success of the morale-boosting show *This is the Army* then running and wanted something similarly uplifting perched about the boys in the air force. Lazar, whose experience had until this time been confined to musicians, was told to organise it.

Actors were not a problem. Lazar's first stops were Josh Logan and Clark Gable, both of whom had been in his office-candidate school and they agreed to star in it. Logan then introduced Lazar to the playwright Moss Hart, who was signed up to write it, and the end product, *Wings Over Broadway*, was duly staged on Broadway. It was Hart who persuaded Lazar to stop thinking of himself exclusively as a musician's agent and who introduced him to his first literary clients — the Pulitzer-prize winning Edna Ferber and the playwright George Kaufman.

Although he ran his office with the help of only two secretaries, Lazar went on to handle the careers of, among others, Tennessee Williams, Neil Simon, Lillian Hellman, Truman Capote and Hemingway. Lazar never let the fact that he did not officially represent a writer deter him from trying to sell his book. As Irwin Shaw once said: "Everyone has two agents — his own and Irving Lazar".

His wife Mary died in January last year.

THE TIMES  
**LIVES**  
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## Church news

Appointments  
The Rev Philip Moon, Secretary of CYFA (Church Pastoral Aid Society), to be Vicar, Christ Church, Lowestoft (Norwich).  
The Rev Terence Muro, Rector, Woodhouse Wragghorn (Ripon), to be also Rector Diocesan Ecumenical Officer.  
The Rev Margaret Parker, Honorary Cathedral Deacon at Durham Cathedral: to be a Minor Canon (non-salaried) of Durham Cathedral.  
The Rev Andrew Pearson, Curate, Wetherby: to be Priest-in-charge, St Peter, Hunslet Moor (Ripon).  
The Rev John Wood, Rector, Priest-in-charge, Barcombe: to be Rector, Barcombe (Chichester).  
The Rev Eric Stephenson, Vicar, East Boldon and Rural Dean of Jarrow: to be also an Honorary Canon of Durham Cathedral.  
The Rev John Stone, Rector, Tedburn St Mary, Whitestone, Oldridge and Holcombe Burrell: to be Priest-in-charge, Yarcombe w Membership and Upottery, and Coteleigh (Exeter).

The Rev Peter Taylor, Rector, Necton w Holme Hale and Rural Dean of Breckland: to be also Priest-in-charge, North and South Pickenham and Houghton on the Hill as from April 1. He is resigning as Rural Dean of Breckland as from March 31 (Norwich).  
The Rev William Taylor, Vicar, St Peter's, Ealing: to be also Area Dean of Ealing (London).  
The Rev Stuart Wilmet, Priest-in-charge, St James w Christ Church, Bermondsey: to be also Priest-in-charge, St Anne and St Augustine, Bermondsey (Southwark).  
The Rev John Wood, Rector, Walsham Le Willows and Fimington w Westhorpe (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich): to be Vicar, Whitstable All Saints, and Rector, Whitstable Team Ministry (Canterbury).

Resignation  
The Rev David Wilbraham, Assistant Curate, St Helen, St Helens, and Minister-in-charge, St Andrews, Denbigh Green (Liverpool): resigned as from Oct 31.

## LAST HOURS AT SUVLA.

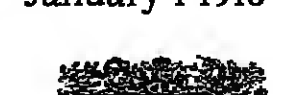
(From G. Ward Price.)  
One of H.M. Ships, Off Suva.

When the whole thing was over the last job that remained to do ashore was to set a light to the abandoned stores. Volunteers did this by means of time fuses, which were only lit when the news was received by telephone from Anzac that all was clear, for it was expected that the sight of the conflagration would at once open the eyes of the Turks to what was going on, and that a furious, if futile, bombardment would immediately begin. Things went off that last night just as quietly as the schedule reads, for the realization of the scheme proved for once to be the perfect working out of a business-like and smoothly running programme.

All the preparations which the Turks will find made for their entry are not, however, of an explosive nature. The Australians have left many letters of kindest farewell, assuring "Johnnie Turkey" that he is a good fellow and a clean fighter, and that the Australians hope to meet him again some day. The crowning testimony to this good feeling is the gramophone which was put in a conspicuous place in a trench on Walker's Ridge with its disc on

## ON THIS DAY

January 1 1916



In contrast to the bungled campaign in Gallipoli, the evacuation from its beaches was a remarkable success in planning and execution. Throughout the numerous embarkations there were few casualties, and the needle ready to play "The Turkish Patrol."

Last night, Sunday, December 19, was an evening of brilliant moonlight. I had spent the day at Lala Baba, where nothing was doing out of the ordinary.

Then along the sandy beach, where so many men at the landing in August suffered torments of thirst, I went back to Suva Point. There was a most fantastic variety of headgear and equipment, pith helmets (relics of summer), knitted woollen helmets, that were to have served during the winter, and field-service caps. From the shore one had a

splendid view of five great fires springing up one after another about 4 o'clock as the shore dumps leapt into flames and soon into one mighty bonfire a couple of hundred yards long.

At 3.30 there had been a violent explosion from Anzac with a sudden spurt of flame on the crest of the ridge. This was a giant mine exploded by the Australians, 45ft. deep under the Turkish trenches, as the final act of hostility when the last Australian was about to leave the beach. It was fired by electric contact from a distance, and must, it is thought, have killed a hundred Turks. When the sun rose the Turks began their strangely erratic bombardment, first dropping shells into the heart of the bonfire at Suva, then at the battleship which had been pounding the piers and then all round.

Although Suva and Anzac have cost us much in blood, it would be a mistake to regard this withdrawal as a confession of entire failure there. Both are names that will take a proud place in the list of the Battle Honours of our Imperial Army, for British troops from the farthest separated parts of the Empire there met and fought, not Turk and German alone, but disease and thirst: the heat of summer and the deadly bitter blizzards of winter.



هكذا من الكمال





## PROFILE 21

Myra Kinghorn:  
last hope for  
duped investors



## BIRTHDAY BANK 21

War under William III  
launched the Bank  
of England in 1694



## SPORT 30-36

Eternal youth  
of football's  
senior citizen

WEEKEND  
SPORTING  
FIXTURES  
Page 32

# THE TIMES

SATURDAY JANUARY 1 1994

## Shares poised for another bumper year

By Liz Dolan,  
Michael Clark  
and Neil Bennett

PRIVATE investors flocked into equities in 1993, as falling interest rates and booming stock markets provoked an exodus from building society and bank deposit accounts.

Unit trusts celebrated their best year ever, attracting even more cash than at the previous high point, in the run-up to the 1987 crash. In their dash for higher returns, individuals invested more money in equity-based funds than institutional investors, in contrast to previous years.

The total value of unit trust funds leapt from £63 billion to nearly £90 billion. Surging share prices accounted for much of the increase. London, Wall Street and most European stock markets reached all-time highs and much of Southeast Asia enjoyed an unprecedented boom. The FT-SE 100 index grew by 20 per cent over the year.

New money, however, also played a significant part. Net monthly sales to the end of November averaged £745 million, compared with the monthly average of £60 million achieved over the same period in 1992. In the first 11 months, net unit trust investment was more than £8 billion, 42 per cent higher than the £6.3 billion achieved for the whole of 1992.

Direct investment in shares by private investors is also increasing. According to a survey by ShareLink, the telephone-based stockbroking service, individual investors plan to play the stock market more regularly this year and expect even greater profits. The survey showed that at

■ The FT-SE index rose 572 points in the course of 1993. More than a quarter of that gain was achieved in the three-week account period that finished yesterday

most eight out of ten private investors expect the FT-SE 100 index to finish 1994 higher than it is now, and more than three-quarters plan to invest more in shares during the year. Almost two-thirds say that investing in shares will be more profitable than in 1993.

The London market, however, ended 1993 on a subdued note. Share prices lost ground and government bonds marked time. An early rise of almost 17 points was quickly wiped out by futures-related selling. The FT-SE 100 index closed near its low of the day, 10.4 points down at 3,418.4.

But this lacklustre performance on the final day of the

year cannot mask what was otherwise a breathtaking 12 months, during which the index rose 571.9 points; the final three-week account saw a gain of 157.1 points.

Analysts' forecasts for the end of 1994 range from 3,500 to 4,000. "Superbull" Nick Knight, at Nomura, who came so close to getting it right a year ago by forecasting a 1993 close of 3,500, is again at the top of the range.

There was a high level of corporate activity in 1993, helping to provide bumper bonuses for many brokers. A total of 166 companies made rights issues, raising £11.28 billion. A further 158 com-

panies, worth an estimated £5 billion, came to market and the BT3 privatisation sale on its own raised £5 billion.

On the bond market, business also boomed. The Government raised a total of £52 billion by issuing extra stocks. Yesterday, though, it was as much as the March series of the Long Gilt could do to muster a rise of 1/16 to finish at £120 1/2. A mere 2,125 contracts were completed.

The survey of 500 ShareLink clients suggests that individuals have forgotten the fears that kept many of them out of the stock market for years after the 1987 crash. "The private investor is clearly taking a bullish view of prospects," said Nigel Bartram, ShareLink's marketing director.

ShareLink's figures show that its customers were enthusiastic share buyers for most of the first half of 1993, but that buying and selling became more balanced in the second half, when many investors took profits.

The most popular company among private investors was J Sainsbury, advantage was taken of weakness in the share price to buy. Asda and Tesco were also in the four most popular stocks. Fisons attracted bargain hunters during its recent financial problems, becoming the third most popular stock. ShareLink itself was floated during 1993 and the company took sixth place in the table as many of its customers bought shares.



Alberto della Valle, manager of the Hyde Park Hotel's Park Room restaurant, puts the final touches for last night's Rotten Row Ball, for which 250 guests paid £145 a head

## Renewed threat of Disney closure

By Martin Flanagan

THE spectre of closure of the loss-making Euro Disneyland theme park near Paris has been raised for the second time in three days by Michael Eisner, chairman of the Walt Disney Corporation, 49 per cent owner of the park.

Euro Disney shares tumbled 32p to 346p as Mr Eisner told a French magazine: "If an aeroplane engine lets you down during a flight, what are the options? Everything is possible today, including closure."

His remarks swiftly followed a warning in Walt Disney's annual report that it would allow the project to fold rather than inject unlimited cash. But some observers suggest the chairman may be orchestrating pressure on its 60 creditor banks. Euro Disney is trying to secure a financial restructuring with its banks, to which it owes 20.3 billion francs. The troubled theme park, which has attracted criticism of American cultural imperialism, lost Fr5.3 billion in its first full trading year to September 30.

Mr Eisner told the French weekly, *Le Point*: "We (Walt Disney) have always said we would support Euro Disney up to March 31, 1994. If an equitable accord is found by then between Walt Disney and all the banks and investors, Euro Disney will continue. That would be a happy ending in the Disney tradition. But, if not, then there will be a more difficult ending."

Many observers still believe the park itself will survive even if Euro Disney collapses, as the creditor banks seek a return, however diminished, on their investment.

One analyst said: "If Euro Disney does fail, I think the banks may think it is better to get some sort of return in the short term, before financing costs, and then hope for a longer term recovery."

BUSINESS EDITOR  
Robert Ballantyne

## WEEKEND MONEY

TESTING TIME

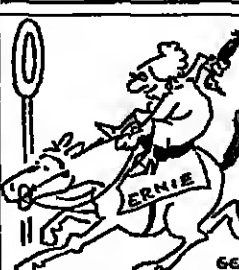


Falling Tessa rates may deter potential investors, but which other tax-free vehicles offer better real returns? Page 24

TIPPING TIME

Global markets soared in 1993. But who got it right, and who got it wrong? And what are experts tipping for '94? Page 23

PREMIUM TIME



A reader still rates the odds on a little earner from Ernie higher than building society returns Page 27

IDEAL TIME

From will-making to critical illness cover, the new year offers a chance to tackle unfinished business Page 25

## ICI's recession prophet hails 'opportunity year'

By Neil Bennett

THE new year should be "a year of real opportunity for British industry", according to Sir Denis Henderson, chairman of ICI, in his most positive comments on business conditions since the recession began in 1989.

In a New Year message to ICI staff, Sir Denis said that there are signs of growth in Britain and America and that business confidence worldwide has had a considerable boost from the Gatt deal. However, he said that conditions in continental Europe would remain very tough since Germany was "in a manic depressive phase" and that ICI must continue to drive down costs to remain competitive.

The past year had been the most important for ICI since its formation in 1926, as the group completed demerger from Zeneca, its pharmaceuticals side. "A little dullness would not come amiss now," Sir Denis said. "We would like a period of constant economic growth for the next 18



Sir Denis: positive view

months so we can benefit from the many changes we have made to the business."

Over four years, Zeneca and ICI have shed 35,000 staff and reorganised many businesses to cut costs. ICI is expected to continue shedding businesses and swapping assets with other chemical producers.

Sir Denis was one of the first business leaders in 1989 to predict Britain's descent into recession and in recent months has been one of the most reluctant to agree that

the economy was recovering. In 1992, he poured scorn on remarks by Norman Lamont, then Chancellor, that there were green shoots of recovery.

"We were still being cautious during the summer, even though we were seeing signs of a modest pick-up," Sir Denis said. "We have been guarding against euphoria, but there is no doubt now that the US has had a pretty good year and our business there has seen quite a pick-up. In the UK, lower interest rates have cheered our customers up, but they are still having difficulty if they sell into Europe. Add this to the Gatt agreement, and it makes me much less pessimistic."

Tangible Gatt benefits were unlikely before 1995, but agreement was far better than "more uncertainty".

ICI had seen no improvement in Germany's economy. "The Germans are in a manic depressive phase and they will need to see lower interest rates. There is not much sign of a pick up there and not much sign of them becoming more competitive," Sir Denis said.

## East Anglia top for rate of growth

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

THE South East suffered more from the recession during 1992 than any other region in Britain, but Scotland, Northern Ireland, the North, Yorkshire, Humberside and East Anglia all increased their contributions to the economy, according to the Central Statistical Office.

East Anglia has been the top performer over the past decade, in terms of growth in its contribution to gross domestic product, while the North West has shown the steepest fall.

The latest CSO *Economic Trends* also showed a fall in Surrey's contribution to the economy for the first time in more than a decade and a continuation of the long-term decline on Merseyside.

Although the South East was badly battered by the recession, it still accounted for more than a third of the entire economy in 1992, with Greater London contributing about 15 per cent of the total. The county with by far the highest GDP per head in 1991, as in other years, was Greater

London. At £12,400, it was 46 per cent higher than the UK average. This reflected not only the dominance of the capital city as an industrial and commercial centre, but also the inclusion of commuters' wages and salaries.

Nevertheless, Greater London and the South East have seen their GDP per head, relative to the UK average, fall for three successive years. East Midlands also saw a drop in 1992.

Over the last decade, there have been numerous shifts in trends in different regions. Scotland's GDP per head relative to the UK average rose during the early 1980s, declined continuously from 1984 to 1989, but now seems to be on an upward trend. Greater London worsened at the beginning of the decade, then began to recover and is now declining again.

In 1992, total UK gross domestic product is estimated to have been £514 billion, an increase of 4 per cent in cash terms from 1991.

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Midday trading figure					

MARKETS IN DETAIL PAGE 22, SHARE PRICES PAGE 23

PERSON CLOSING PRICES



## How many magpies on your lawn?

Some people, usually those of rural descent, talk to magpies. Sight of one magpie, so the fable goes, heralds sorrow but, thankfully, one can guard against such fate by doffing one's hat and politely uttering the words: "Good morning, Mr Magpie." The magpie, equally thankfully, says nothing. By way of contrast, sight of two magpies heralds joy, I mention this because, at the time of writing, it would appear that almost everyone — with the notable exception of the 2.8 million unemployed — is surrounded by a couple of magpies.

Seldom has a couple of magpies rung in on such optimistic chimes. Goodbye market power, since recovery — should you not already have exchanged pleasantries. The current economic scenario has been well daubed (with not a little encouragement from the Government) but permit me to recap swiftly. Retailers have reported their best winter sales figures since the late 1980s,

while the Halifax has predicted that house sales might well expand by 15 per cent during 1994 with prices expected to rise by an average of 5 per cent. The Institute of Directors' post Budget dipstick has produced strong traces of mounting optimism fuelled, in part, by the successful conclusion of the Galt negotiations. Economists, unusually, are not entirely at odds with the Treasury's forecast of 2.5 per cent GDP growth, the range being 1.5 per cent to 3 per cent. Inflation, we are informed, is a demon tamed; believe it if you will.

Against this background, UK equities are breaking all-time highs: the culmination of a runaway bull market powered, since the exit of sterling from the ERM in the autumn of 1992, by the prospect of falling interest rates. Wall Street, with the Dow Jones registering a 14 per cent plus last year, has played a significant role, with London not only benefiting from the coat-tails ride but also from the flow of,

arguably, hot money into UK counters. Hopes are high for a further cut in base rate — reduced to 5.5 per cent shortly before Kenneth Clarke's November Budget — conceivably within a matter of weeks. Clouds — solitary magpies, so to speak — still hover, the darkest embracing the threat of higher UK interest rates to curb the demon, the weakness of much of continental Europe's economy (the Banesto affair is hardly bell ringing stuff) and the oncoming impact of Lamont/Clarke's fiscal measures which amount to the equivalent of a 7p increase in income tax over three years.

Over at Nomura, Nick Knight, the strategist who got the equity market right in 1993 with a consistent FT-SE prediction of 3,500, is forecasting 3,700 by the end of the month and 4,000 by the year end. Magpies on each shoulder, Knight expects, the Dow Jones to appreciate from 3,775 to "in excess of 5,000" during 1994.



MELVYN MARCKUS

Sir Denis Henderson, chairman of ICI, emerged from a spell of bird watching yesterday to pronounce that 1994 should be a year of "real opportunity" for British industry. Henderson, an industrialist not given to magpie exaggeration, reports that "some signs of growth" are at last visible in the UK and the US. But what of small businesses? Thursday heralded the most macabre

item of new year cheer, courtesy of business information enterprise, Dun & Bradstreet. The good news is that business failure in 1993 has fallen by some 11 per cent — the first decline in five years. Also good is the estimate that 1993 witnessed some 400,000 "start-ups" — an uptick of 13 per cent. The bad news is that the casualty list amounts to the thick end of 56,000 — double the average, over the past decade, of 28,000.

I have, in the days of Polly Peck, wine and roses, been accused (quite correctly) of being beastly to a certain sector of industry; namely that which pressed funds upon the likes of Robert Maxwell and chose to fuel the property fiasco of the early nineties, learning nothing from an all too similar fiasco in 1973-74, the one which transformed not a few Bank of England executives into a bunch of life-guardians.

And I have to confess that, when I read of 1,000 firms disappearing each week my thoughts, instinctively, turned to the banks and to their custodian, the Bank of England. As *The Times* reported last Wednesday, the Bank recently completed a three-month investigation into widespread allegations that the clearers failed to support small firms during the recession. Such allegations have — needless to say — been dismissed, the Bank's most serious criticism being that the clearers are lacking in the art of communication.

Governor Eddie George is understood to have focused on the perceived "equity gap" — the clearers arguing that too much funding relates to bank loans or overdrafts. This perspective has not been well received by the small business community; two thirds of which is intent on retaining equity control.

What the Bank's findings (yet to see the light of day) do not focus on is the gap that fascinates businessmen more than any other, namely that between base rate and what they are charged. Allegations that the clearing banks have failed to fully pass on the benefits of lower base rates have already been responsible for one major political storm and, if you heed the small business community, a major political whitewash.

So, with industry agog about lower new year interest rates, I polled the Big Four as to their rates to industry's minnows.

■ NatWest: Maximum of 6.5% above base.

■ Barclays: Typically 3% to 6% over base, with a maximum premium of 7.5%-8%.

■ Lloyds: Standard rate 11.04%. Preferential rate: 9%.

■ Midland: Average premium of 2.86% above base, the spread being between 2% and 6%.

I strongly advise small businessmen to remember their names when they are next confronted with a magpie.

Let us hope for a joyous new year.

## Production from £1bn Britannia gasfield delayed

By COLIN NARBROUGH

FIRST production from Britannia, one of the biggest North Sea gasfields, is to be delayed until late 1998, a year later than originally planned, to extract greater value from the venture, according to Jim Briggs, the Britannia project director.

Jeff Tetlow, project team manager, put the capital savings from the delay at "between £50 million and £100 million" on the expected £1 billion-plus price of bringing the huge field into production.

The decision coincided with a further slump in oil prices. Agreement by Russia to co-operate with the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) to stabilise prices

failed to prevent the oil price slipping to a new five-year low as 1993 came to a close. Market focus on the prospect of continuing oversupply pushed the benchmark February price for Brent crude to \$13.20 on the International Petroleum Exchange in London, the lowest since November 1988.

Mr Briggs denied that the delay to Britannia, which will be jointly operated by Chevron and Conoco, the American oil companies, on behalf of a 12-strong consortium, had been caused by the Scottish political campaign to have gas from the field landed at St Fergus, near Peterhead.

He said that location of the landfill for Britannia gas and liquids had not been decided, nor would it be until the product was sold and the customers' preferred delivery point was known.

The project group is considering four landfill options for siting a terminal — St Fergus; Teesside, northeast England; the Dutch port of Eemshaven; or a location in Denmark.

St Fergus is in the constituency of Alex Salmond, the Scottish National Party leader and MP, who described proposals to site the terminal at Teesside as "the great gas robbery".

The Britannia field, 130 miles north-east of Aberdeen, holds about 2.5 trillion cubic feet of recoverable gas, and up to 200 million barrels of condensate

and natural gas liquids. Negotiations are under way with prospective buyers of the gas in Britain and on the Continent and the project team foresees the delay providing more time to consider more potential customers.

Condensate, of which Britannia has big reserves, is to be separated at the single platform, and will either be sent via the oil pipeline laid from BP's Forties oilfield to Cruden Bay, Aberdeenshire, or by the sub-sea line running from Piper Bravo to Flotta, Orkney.

Another option would be to use a concrete platform, with massive under-sea storage chambers, and load the light-oil on to tankers from a buoy.

On world oil markets, dealers said that the Russian deal with Said bin Ahmed al-Shanfari, the Omani oil minister whose Opec co-operation plea was rejected by Britain and Norway this week, was unlikely to have any early effect, given the weight of market pressures bearing down on the oil price.

At the start of last year, Brent fell below \$18 a barrel after \$21 the previous autumn. The fall in price has started to do damage, creating serious problems for Metallgesellschaft, the German metals group, over oil hedging deals, and forcing Norway, western Europe's biggest oil producer, to raise interest rates to defend its currency.

## Banesto buy-ins reported

By OUR WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT



Happier days: Mario Conde, chairman of Banesto, Spain's fourth-biggest bank, in 1990

THE emergency administration installed at Banco Español de Crédito (Banesto) to keep Spain's fourth-largest bank afloat is understood to have found that it bought back its shares far in excess of permitted levels as it tried to support its foundering price.

Executives from rival banks sent in by the Spanish central bank on Tuesday, after a 500 billion peseta (£2.4 billion) gap was found in Banesto equity funds, are considering a temporary equity injection under a restructuring plan.

Morgan Stanley says that recapitalising Banesto — requires 100-150 billion pesetas.

The authorities are committed to ensuring Banesto's survival as an independent institution in the medium term, but analysts say that it will have to attract new equity to replace the injection from the banking system. Eventually, the government is expected to let Banesto be taken over by a domestic rival or a foreign bank.

Luis Angel Rojo, the central bank governor, in what were seen as optimistic remarks to parliament, said that the hole in Banesto funds was not the amount that the banking system would have to contribute to a restructuring, because Banesto could recover part of its bad loan portfolio and count on big capital gains.

Banesto said that net withdrawals since Tuesday's dismissal of Mario Conde, its chairman, and the board were 50 billion pesetas, "with no difficulty in meeting demands."

Hints of problems yet to surface came in reports that Banesto built up treasury stock, or shares bought back but not cancelled, possibly exceeding 30 per cent of total shares. Regulations limit treasury stock to 5 per cent.

## Healthcare deals halted

SHARES in Healthcare Holdings, the private medical facilities group, were suspended at 14p at its request pending publication of accounts and during negotiations on a "significant corporate transaction". The market speculated that there may be a reverse takeover by a private business. Healthcare, capitalised at £15 million at the suspension price, said that it is in talks with several parties. It is also discussing possible financial restructuring with its lenders. The company said that it has decided to delay publication of its results for the 18 months to June 30, given the substantial impact that the two sets of talks may have on finances and trading prospects.

## Rothmans drops plan

ROTHMANS International, the tobacco group, which planned a new Far East company to incorporate its interests in Singapore, Malaysia and North Asia, says it will not now apply to the Singapore High Court to sanction the proposals. This follows the plan's rejection by shareholders. The group said that while a new regional headquarters would be established in Hong Kong, the original plan was being taken "back to the drawing board". Its strategic plan for Far East markets "remains very much in place".

## Danka buys AOE

DANKA Business Systems, the US-based office equipment supplier, is expanding its American copier operations with the acquisition of American Office Equipment Company (AOE), a copier dealer based in Chicago, Illinois, for a maximum of \$9.3 million. AOE, which operates 11 branches throughout the Chicago metropolitan area and northern Indiana, made an operating profit of \$1 million last year, on sales of \$28 million, and had net assets of \$2 million. Danka shares firmed 1p to 319p.

## Correction

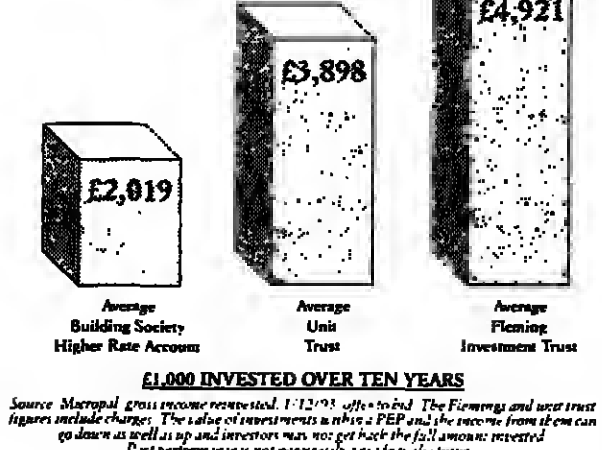
THE photograph used yesterday to illustrate the announcement that Brian Pearce, chief executive of Midland Bank, had received a knighthood was not of Sir Brian but of Sir Peter Walters, chairman of the bank. We apologise to both men for the error and to Professor Roy Goodie, CBE, whose photograph was also incorrectly captioned.

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## Scottish Heritable claims court win

By OUR CITY STAFF

SCOTTISH Heritable, the industrial conglomerate, said it had won an \$8.5 million legal judgment in America against KPMG Peat Marwick, the accountancy firm.

The company, of which Roger Shute, formerly of BHP Group, recently became temporary chief executive after acquiring a stake of almost 10 per cent, said yesterday that a Federal Court jury in Dallas, Texas, had decided in its favour on a claim alleging that audited financial statements of Rangaire Corporation had been materially mis-stated.

Scottish Heritable said it had used the statements, audited by KPMG, in deciding to buy 50 per cent of Rangaire in 1988. The jury decided the auditors had not fraudulently violated US securities laws, but had been negligent in 1987 and 1988 audits of Rangaire.

Shares in Scottish Heritable have been suspended at 5p



Shute: 10 per cent stake

## Asda director quits after long illness

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

PETER Monaghan, retail director of Asda, is leaving the supermarket group after a prolonged illness. Mr Monaghan, who joined Asda from B&Q in August 1992, has been suffering from a viral infection for several months.

Paul Dowling, Asda's corporate affairs director, said: "It is very unfortunate, but as Peter has been ill for some time, we mutually decided that it would be better that he went."

His quiet departure contrasts sharply with his arrival at the supermarket group, which caused controversy because he had already provisionally agreed to join Gateway, the rival grocery chain.

However, Archie Norman, Asda's chief executive, who knew Mr Monaghan from his days at Kingfisher, insisted that no formal contract with Gateway had been signed.

Asda said no decision had been made on a financial settlement. Mr Monaghan was on a three-year rolling contract, but it is unlikely that this will be paid off in full.

In addition to his basic salary, Mr Monaghan holds 3.2 million share options, exercisable at 25p. He was granted a further 1 million options under a long-term incentive plan, exercisable at just 0.01p from July 1996, provided that certain performance targets were met. All these options are expected to lapse.

David Shriver, food retailing analyst at NatWest Securities, said of Mr Monaghan: "He is a loss. He is a main board member and one of Archie's generation. The turnaround at Asda in the last two years has been nothing less than remarkable and the credit for that goes not just to Archie but to his whole team."

Asda's shares slipped 1p to 55½p.

## Flextech link-up hands control to US

By MARTIN FLANAGAN

FLEXTECH, the cable television group, yesterday confirmed a tie-up with TCI, its much bigger US counterpart, by which the Americans take a controlling interest in return for injecting their European interests into the British company.

Programming assets of the TCI subsidiary, United Artists European Holdings, include Bravo, the satellite channel, and stakes in UK Gold, UK Living, and The Children's Channel. They make Flextech one of the largest suppliers of programmes to cable and satellite television, with the enlarged group having an interest in five of the 12 channels in the basic BSkyB multi-channel package.

The group, which until the summer of last year was an oil services company, has made no secret of its aim to become a major cable and satellite player.

Under the deal, TCI will take a 60.4 per cent stake in Flextech via the issue of 52.35 million new shares. The shares are now worth £201.6 million. Fred Vierra, TCI executive vice-president, is one of three new American representatives on Flextech's board, and senior management of United Artists Europe will take over day-to-day running of the British company.

TCI, capitalised at more than £10 billion, is to put up £36.5 million in loans and cash to help develop the channels.

Roger Luard, who remains Flextech managing director, said: "As a result of this merger, Flextech will become a leading supplier of programming to the

UK satellite and cable industry and believes it is now well-placed to capitalise on the many opportunities offered by this fast-developing industry."

Yesterday's announcement emphasised that the channels would remain in the red until a big enough subscriber base was established. Flextech said that investors would receive no dividends for 1993, 1994 or 1995. The group also disclosed that it had increased, from 49.5 per cent to 86.9 per cent, its stake in IFS, which owns or controls five cable franchises in the UK. The franchises cover 260,000 homes in Oxford, Stafford, Andover, Salisbury and Jersey.

Flextech shares are suspended at 379p pending shareholder approval of the merger on February 1.

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## INVESTORS COMPENSATION SCHEME: Myra Kinghorn and Richard Lawson

## Picking up the tab when regulation fails

partners in power

Sara McConnell profiles the ICS heads, who offer a last resort for victims of investment fraud or negligence

If the staff of the Investors Compensation Scheme ever need reminding why they are there, they only have to look at the office wall. Pinned up are newspaper pictures of Roger Levitt, Robert Miller (Dunsdale Securities), Kenneth Renton (Waverley Fund Management), Denis Dale Greaves and Lionel and Dorothy Genn. Many of these faces are all too familiar to members of the public who invested with them then lost millions of pounds, in some cases, when the companies collapsed.

The Investors Compensation Scheme has paid out £58 million in the last five years to 6,400 investors who lost money at the hands of firms offering wonderful investment opportunities. This payout may sound generous but the ICS continues to come under attack from other investors who believe it is blocking legitimate claims.

Arguments about who funds the scheme also continue to rage. The resultant bad publicity does not please Myra Kinghorn, the ICS's energetic chief executive. After five years on the defensive, she is now leading a public relations offensive to relay ICS's achievements to the outside world.

There is another urgent but unspoken reason why the ICS wants all the good PR it can get in 1994. In a planned radical overhaul of regulation, the ICS could be broken up into smaller schemes run by separate regulators. Some people will need a lot of convincing that a single central scheme should remain.

Miss Kinghorn is fully supported by Richard Lawson, the quiet spoken ICS chairman, but the idea of promoting the ICS is firmly stamped "Kinghorn".

Miss Kinghorn said: "We've got to get the message through to investors that we're there, we're looking after them as well as we can and for those who haven't quite hit our desks yet, to give them confidence that the scheme does work and the final safety net is there." Investors and the financial services industry, which pays for the ICS, are being wooed with what Miss Kinghorn describes as "magic messages" through the scheme's annual report.

The "think positive" campaign will need work. Miss Kinghorn, who describes herself as an optimist, has certainly needed to be in her time at the ICS. The scheme has been criticised, particularly by investors who have lost money, for a too narrow interpretation of its rules and has had several high profile court hearings to define exactly who qualifies for payouts.

Home income plans tested the scheme up to the limit. Thousands of elderly people were wrongly advised in the

late-1980s to mortgage their homes and invest the resulting lump sum in investment bonds from insurance companies or brokers marketing the schemes. The idea was that income from the bonds would more than meet mortgage repayments, but a falling stock market meant the bonds lost value and the income failed to cover the mortgage. Some people faced repossession. Many of the firms selling the plans collapsed, leaving the ICS to pick up the pieces. In 1993 alone, it has paid out £20 million to 1,600 investors.

The huge cost of compensating investors defrauded or misadvised by supposedly regulated firms has taken everyone by surprise and horrified many who see the need for compensation as confirmation that regulation has failed. But Miss Kinghorn and Mr Lawson, in their "think positive" mode, see the massive bill as proof of the scheme's success, although they freely admit that no one had foreseen how much it would cost. Mr Lawson said: "None of the directors fully appreciated what we would be hit with."

The scale of the first payout gave little indication of future horrors. It is almost exactly five years since Allied Equity,

consoling distraught investors. Then, as now, those who have lost money are obviously shocked and upset, and Miss Kinghorn sees it as an important part of the ICS's role to offer sympathy. She said: "They have lost their security, they often feel duped."

This is all in complete contrast to a previously quiet existence as a banking specialist at Arthur Young (now Ernst & Young), the chartered accountant, and spells in industry. She had already managed to escape working in the local pickle factory — the fate of many of her contemporaries — near Newcastle upon Tyne, where she grew up. Instead she took a degree in history and librarianship. She said: "I think I liked picking books actually. I thought teaching was going to be quite my forte and I thought I could run the school library at the same time. I had great energy at the time."

Her colleagues at the ICS say this energy has never left her. It is also obvious that she loves running things. She is chief executive of an organisation with 68 staff, having been taken on full time in February 1990 when claims started to rise. Miss Kinghorn no longer picks up the phone to as many investors, which she regrets, but keeps close tabs on how the other staff are handling cases.

She is firmly in the day-to-day driving seat, "throwing up all the balls and keeping them there". Richard Lawson spends only two days a week in the chair at ICS, which suits Miss Kinghorn. She likes to think of herself as calm and organised. Does she really need a chairman? Could someone as capable as her not handle that role herself? Certainly not. She values the support of Mr Lawson, with whom she has been working for five years and gets on with him "exceedingly well". As far as she is concerned the roles of chairman and chief executive are quite clear and distinct. "My job is to do the day-to-day running of the scheme and to keep him informed of any salient, sensitive points he might want to follow up. He oversees our operation but he doesn't want to get involved in the day-to-day operation. It would be quite improper for a chairman to get involved like that. All he needs to know is that the right things are being brought to the board on a timely basis and that we're keeping everybody informed."

Richard Lawson has a wealth of experience in the City, excellent contacts and very polished skills at meetings, according to Miss Kinghorn. And so he should. Apart from a short spell at ICI just after leaving school, he has spent his whole life in the



Richard Lawson and Myra Kinghorn are both committed to projecting a positive image for their scheme to compensate wronged investors

City, firstly at Greenwell & Co, now Greenwell Montagu, where he rose to become senior partner, then as deputy chairman of the Stock Exchange, followed by the Securities Association. He has been a director of ICS since 1989, but has only been its chairman since 1992. The City has changed a lot since the 1960s, when, although there were no self-regulatory bodies, senior

partners in firms made sure in-house rules were obeyed. Anyone caught churning portfolios or dealing in forbidden ways was out. A far cry from now, when the majority (86 per cent) of the claims ICS are forced to pay on are for churning, negligent advice or, in fewer cases now, plain fraud by firms of brokers who are, in theory, regulated.

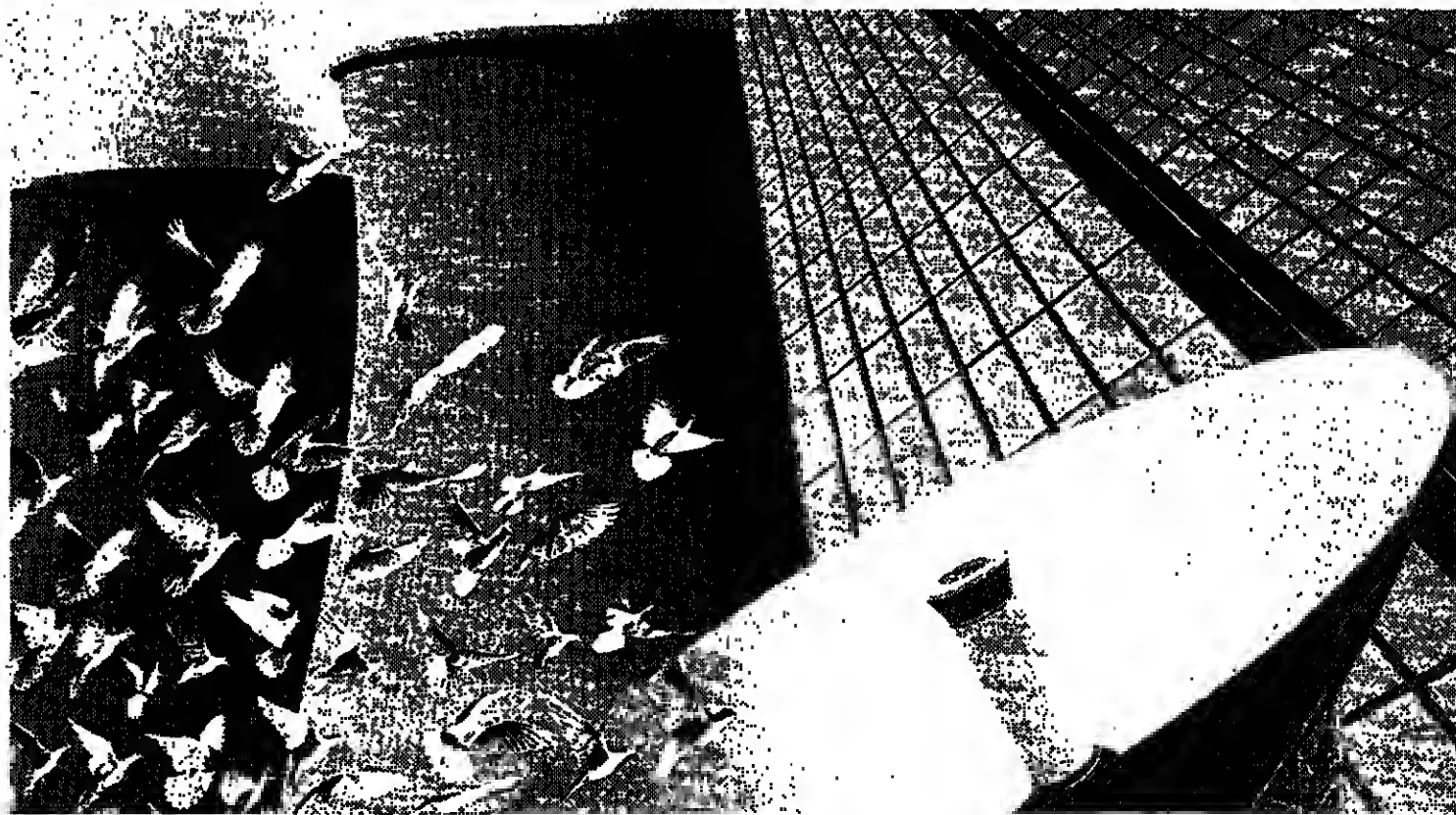
If he feels a passing regret

for the old days when someone's word really was their bond and firms minded about their reputation, he does not say so. Criticism does not appear to come easily to Mr Lawson. He is positive about the efforts of the Financial Intermediaries Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association (Fimbra) to weed out firms that could potentially put investors at risk. He is

hopeful that the present deplorable record of Fimbra members, which represent 86 per cent of the numbers of defaulters, will improve and the number of defaults fall. Colleagues at the ICS describe Mr Lawson as modest, almost diffident, reluctant even to cultivate companies sufficiently to get a string of directorships, although he has the contacts to do so. He does

not want to compete with Miss Kinghorn for the limelight, where she is obviously more comfortable than he is. His working relationship with her is one of "mutual respect". "We get on extraordinarily well. We discuss practically everything. We argue sometimes about the approach but there is no point-scoring. We want to do whatever is right for the scheme."

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## Old Lady unlikely to receive the perfect birthday present

BY SUSAN GILCHRIST

THE Bank of England celebrates its 300th birthday this year, and is commemorating the fact with a series of special events. In the course of three centuries, from being a mere channel for government borrowing, the Bank developed into the model for central banks all over the world.

It secured its Royal Charter on July 27, 1694, after City merchants raised £1.2 million to finance William III's war with France. It opened for business a few days later in temporary accommodation in the Mercers' Hall, in Cheapside. In 1734, it acquired its present site in Threadneedle Street.

The Bank's early years were dominated by the government's pressing demands for money and the issue of new coinage. But it also established a conventional banking business such as accepting deposits. As evidence of deposits, it issued

banknotes that gradually became a widely accepted currency, and in 1844 it was given a formal monopoly of note issue in England and Wales. However, this limited the Bank's ability to develop its commercial business, so it concentrated on its central banking role. In a series of



William III: cash need

banking crises in the nineteenth century, it established the concept of lender of last resort, mobilising its resources — and the City's — when the financial system was threatened.

The Bank has survived many physical hazards. In 1780, it was attacked by a mob, prompting the government to provide it with an overnight military guard — a tradition that continued until 1973. It also survived Second World War bombing raids, as well as the two more recent City bombs.

Its year-long anniversary celebrations include the issue of a commemorative £2 coin and a new £50 note, which will carry a portrait of Sir John Houblon, the Bank's first governor.

However, if the Bank is looking for the ultimate 300th birthday present — independence — it may be disappointed.



## Dow higher at midday

## FISONS: HEAVY DEMAND FOR SHARES CONTINUES

Technical factors also played a major part in yester-

OTC options are new to London, but have become established on Wall Street. They allow institutions to buy and sell parcels of shares with a set value against the index. In effect it is a process of hedging positions already established in the cash market against volatile movements.

Swiss Bank Corporation, Goldman Sachs, Salomon Brothers and UBS specialise

in this form of trading which, it is claimed, offers the client flexibility and anonymity compared with the conventional traded options market.

this week, added a further 2p to 134p, after touching 137p, as almost 6 million shares traded. A hard core of investors still see Fisons as a recovery play, following a dismal 1993. This week has also seen a revival of bid speculation. Brokers say the sharp fall in the share price has left the company vulnerable to a bid.

**Eurotunnel** advanced another 13p to 610p in response to this week's decision by the French and British governments to extend the group's franchise to operate the link by ten years.

news that Peter Monaghan had resigned as retail director. An Asda spokesman said he had been ill for the past six months after a viral infection.

Shares of USM-quoted **Flecken** were suspended after 379p awaiting shareholder approval for the proposed merger with United Artists' European programming operation.

**Shares of Healthcare Hold-**

units close at 123p, a 3p premium on the 120p offer price.

□ **GILT-EDGED:** Gilts traded in narrow limits with the March series of the long gilt firming £11<sup>16</sup>/<sub>16</sub> to £120<sup>11</sup>/<sub>32</sub> on turnover of 2,125 contracts.

There was demand for index-linked stock with supplies of both this week's issue of Index-Linked 2½ per cent 2001 and Index-Linked 4¾ per cent 2004 exhausted. In longs, Treasury 9 per cent 2012 hardened £/16 to £12717/32, while in shorts Treasury 9½ per cent 1999 was unchanged at £116½/32.

**MICHAEL CLARK**

	Dec 31 wedday	Dec 30 close
AMP Inc.	53 1/2	52 1/2
ANDR Corp.	57 1/2	57 1/2
Abbott Labs.	29 1/2	30 1/2
Acme-Lite	50 1/2	50 1/2
Alhanson (HFI)	19 1/2	19 1/2
Air Prod & Chem	44 1/2	44 1/2
Emerson Elec		
Engelhard Corp		
Enron Corp		
Energy Corp		
Esjay Corp		
Essex		

Dec 31	Dec 30	Dec 31	Dec 30
Monday	close	Monday	close
60%	60%	Oryx Energy Co.	17% 17%
24%	24%	Omnia Chemical	44% 44%
25%	25%	PNC Financial	25% 25%
35%	35%	PPG Industries	75% 75%
17%	17%	PacifiCorp	61% 61%
65%	65%	Packaging	19% 19%
65%	65%		

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## Resort given deadline for filing accounts

**SHAREHOLDERS** in Resort Hotels, which called in Ernst & Young to investigate its accounts after suspending share dealings last July, might have to wait until the end of next month to see any financial statements for the group.

Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, has given Resort until February 28 to file accounts for the year to last April. At yesterday's annual meeting, David Tonkinson, the chairman, said no accounts could be presented because it had not been possible to obtain a final valuation of Resort's properties.

"I appreciate that you must be feeling frustrated," he said. Investigations had been carried out by Ernst & Young, the accountancy firm, by Coopers & Lybrand, the company's auditor, and by Gouldens, the firm of solicitors.

Mr Tonkinson said the meeting had been delayed until December 31 in the hope that it would be possible to send shareholders a circular. The aim had not been to hold

**A court order is sought to oust Robert Feld from the board**

Resort has applied to the High Court to remove Robert Feld, the company's founder, from the board. Mr Tonkinson replaced Richard

RED HUNT ISSUES		
Aberforth Split Int C (100)	100	..
Abratt Lloyd Insee (100)	94	..
Azlan (230)	265	..
CLM Insee (100)	106	..
Codfish (250)	224	..
Cleinfied (155)	182	..
DVS Purmest (260)	319	..
Fairbank Euro Smir (100)	96	..
Fernuch (180)	103	..
Finsbury Underwring Int	109	..
For a Cell Smaller (100)	109	..
Friends Prov Ethical (60)	60	..
Friends Prov Uts (120)	123	..
Friends Prov Uts P (60)	63	..
Gartmore (168)	205	..
Gowest Emerging C	117	..
Govest High Inc (100)	112	..
Harmony Leisure Wts	4	..
Inspirations (100)	120	..
Kleinwort and Endor (58)	52	..
Litho Supplies (100)	236	..
London Industrial (330)	356	..
Marshall Insee (100)	108	..
Mercury World Game (100)	107	..
Miligan (40)	40	..
Morgan Gen Egy C (100)	109	..
Ms Smir Anst (100)	105	..
Neison Hunt (140)	148	..
New London Capital (100)	99	..
On Demand Info (78)	113	..
Pilot Int C (100)	104	..
Pratt Press Int	99	..
Premium Underwring	122	..
Rossmann (10)	11	..
Royal Doulton	228	..
Securified End Cost (60)	61	..
Telespec (160)	192	..
RIGHTS ISSUES		
Bermose n/p (325)		93
Bourne End n/p (65)		8
Bowthorpe n/p (320)		34
Heywood Wilms n/p (320)		127
Hillside n/p (36)		24
ATC n/p (158)		36
STC Jones n/p (215)		7
Tay Homes n/p (45)		58
West Trust n/p (32)		5
Weyale Garden n/p (152)		19

## MAJOR CHANGES

<b>RISES:</b>		<b>FALLS:</b>	
Mitel	372p (+10p)	Mauch Martin 'A'	390p (-10p)
Frost Group	258p (+9p)	Allied Lyons	680p (-10p)
Linton Park	338p (+8p)	Guinness	477p (-18p-2p)
Fairline Boats	320p (+10p)	Marmydown Wine	220p (-10p)
Pendragon	285p (+11p)	J Bilem	203p (-14p)
Haynes Pub	343p (+8p)	Glaxo	725p (-9p)
Ego Co Louis	37p (+9p)	Euro Disney	349p (-32p)
Warner	473p (+8p)	Inchcape	553p (-4p)
Cater Allen	606p (+9p)	Rothmans	479p (-11p)
Genstar Net	689p (+8p)		

Closing Prices Page 29

## UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

[illegible]



## TESTING TESSAS 24

Tax-exempt savings in the spotlight

## WEEKEND MONEY

## NEW YEAR TIPS 25

Time to take stock of your finances



# East holds the promise of success in 1994

Far Eastern and European stock markets could provide significant rewards for equity investors over the coming 12 months, Liz Dolan reports

Rowan Atkinson and Dawn French may not seem to have much in common with the average fund manager. But successful exponents of the otherwise different businesses of comedy and investment share an important talent — timing.

As Britain's fund managers root out their crystal balls and consult their astrologers in preparation for 1994, their overriding concern is likely to be predicting when each of the world's markets is to enter a new phase. This year's biggest headache will be the volatile Far East markets. Tokyo's Nikkei index has plummeted 35 per cent, from 39,000 to 17,500, since the beginning of 1991. Pent-up demand is such that investors will have only to glimpse signs of an upturn before piling in.

Conversely, there is the question of how long surging markets in places such as Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong can go on defying gravity. Missing the boat here could mean heavy losses.

Elsewhere, Wall Street, London and other European capitals soared to all-time highs in 1993. Is now the time to take profits and look elsewhere for growth? Or, will low interest rates and low inflation keep shares bubbling?

Nick Train, investment director at GT Unit Managers, considers that 1994 will deliver at least four "virtual certainties". Most rival investment houses are in broad agree-

ment with his first three predictions: European interest rates will fall further; the dollar will strengthen against the pound; and global disinflation will continue. However, the fourth is more contentious. Mr Train says: "China is likely to be a source of disruption rather than easy money as it was in 1993. I think the whole of Asia could well blow out in '94. It will be a case of 'mind your eye in Hong Kong', and be aware that most of the other markets have doubled from a not especially cheap base."

Barry Woolfe, chief investment officer of Britain's larg-

Gartmore Fund Managers, says: "It's a bit scary there at the moment, but I doubt that it's peaked."

Peter Jones, research director at M&G Unit Trusts, says: "Over the past year, Hong Kong has come of age. I think it is now one of the world's genuine stock markets. It is also a very important route in and out of China."

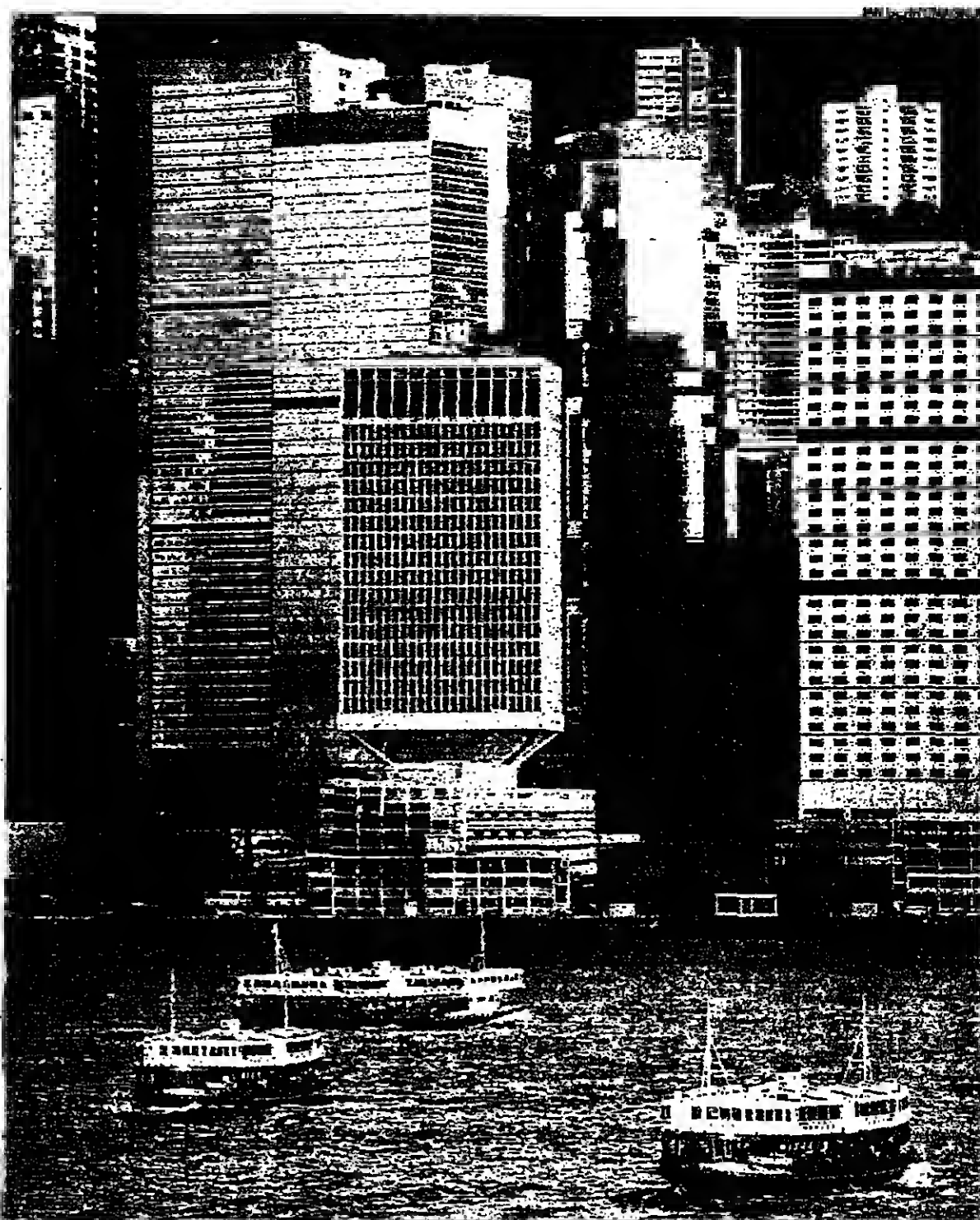
Japan is another poster for investors. MIM's Mr Woolfe remains negative. "It's not going to see recovery this year. Corporate profits are under pressure, but ratings are still very high. It isn't really attractive enough yet." Chrissy Keen, investment communications director at Fidelity, on the other hand, thinks now is the time to start buying. "It's a very difficult market still, but there's so much gloom that the money will pour in the moment the situation turns."

M&G's Mr Jones, says Japan is "not for the risk-averse, but I'm pretty sure we'll have to buy at some point."

Many analysts consider US markets have peaked as recovery gathers pace, although Mr Jones thinks the threatened interest rate rise might be good for the long bond market by helping to soothe any inflation fears. Ironically, Chris Cheetham, Prudential's director of investment strategy, says: "Good news about recovery is bad news for markets. A slow, weak upturn is what we're looking for." This looks a virtually an odds-on certainty for Europe. GT's

1994's headache is likely to be the volatile markets in the Far East

est investor, Mercury Investment Management (MIM), agrees that investors are in for a bumpy ride in the Far East, but says: "If you closed your eyes for the next four or five years, you'd be sure to make money." John Kelly, investment director at Barclays Unicorn, says: "There's more to go for. Expected growth is two or three times that of the West. Short-term, it's still not fully valued, and anyone with a long-term portfolio must be in Southeast Asia. But it's not a market for amateurs." Brian O'Neill, investment director at



"Mind your eye in Hong Kong" warn the experts, who say investments could quickly sour in markets that have soared

## Experts prove fallible

Private investors who slipped up in 1993 may like to know that professionals found banana skins, too (Liz Dolan writes). Barclays Unicorn, for example, misread recovery prospects in Japan. Eager to get in when shares were at their lowest, BU thought it spotted a glimmer of hope in the late spring that later proved to be a false dawn.

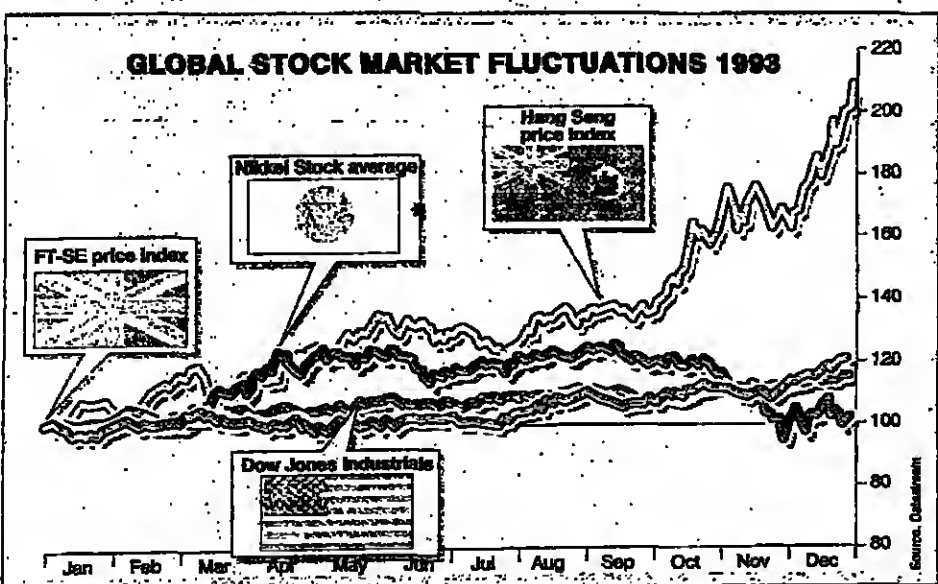
On the other hand, Gartmore Fund Managers was constantly having to revise over-optimistic forecasts. "We underestimated the effect US money would have on markets in the Far East and, in fact, global markets in general. We thought Hong Kong would reach 10,000, but we didn't expect it to go straight through," the firm said.

Fidelity was another taken by surprise at the continued strength of the markets in Southeast Asia. Concerned that prices were beginning to overheat, fund managers started to take what were already quite considerable profits on some investments, and then had to sit back and watch as the shares continued to soar. Chrissy Keen, investment communications director, said: "We also expect European interest rates to fall faster, especially in France."

GT Unit Managers misread the strength of the German stock market. "We were correct in predicting that earnings would disappear, but we underestimated the effect of falling interest rates which, in the event, sent the market up by around 30 per cent."

M&G admits: "We didn't buy nearly enough gilt-edged stock. We also kept out of emerging markets which, in the event, did very well."

Weekend Money is edited by Rose Wild

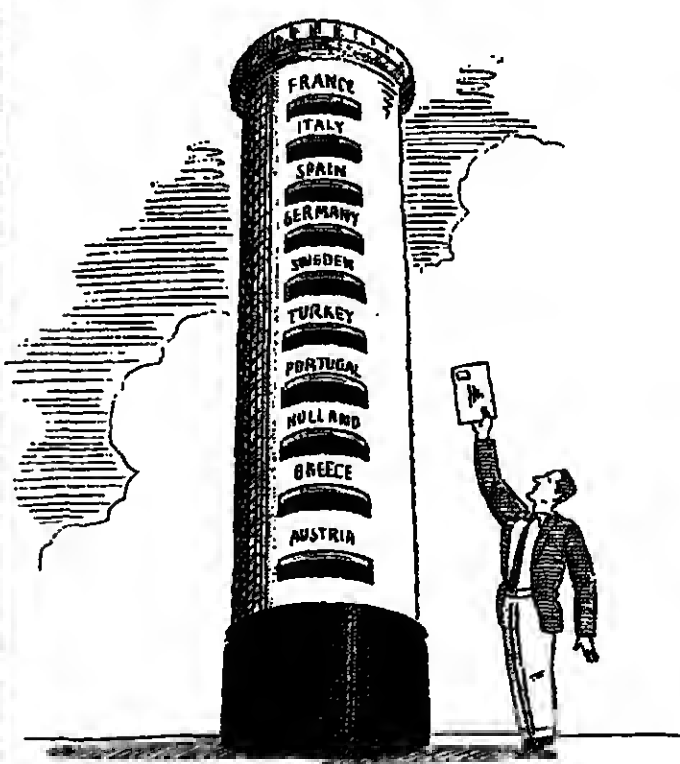


Mr Train says: "We think European smaller companies could be the hottest story for the first half of 1994." The UK continues to attract support, especially for medium-sized and smaller companies. Barclays Unicorn's Mr Kelly says: "The easy money has passed. You have to look for quality. Recovery stocks that don't deliver will be marked down strongly, but those that do will continue to do well."

Mr Woolfe says seek companies able to deliver profits growth of at least 15 or 20 per cent. "These will command a premium as, in a low inflation environment, growth will be very high in real terms."

Opinions on gilts vary. Mr Kelly is "bored with bonds" and advises looking elsewhere. Mr Train says: "We think investors will be surprised at the strength of the bond market. We can't see any pressure on inflation, so government bond yields will be high by comparison."

Prudential's Mr Cheetham is reasonably happy with short to medium-term gilts, but would avoid those at the longer end.



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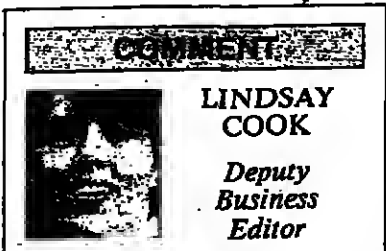
## A cautious new year, Colette

Dear Colette Bowe,  
This is an open letter wishing you a cautious new year. Beware the bad guys in your midst. As you take charge of the embryo Personal Investment Authority (PIA), you must understand that there are many who do not have the interests of investors at heart. It will be up to you to make sure that they are soon converted to the cause.

Self-regulation can work only if investors are better protected. Your new organisation is expected to become a full-blooded regulator in the next few months. By then, there will be no going back. A tough regime has to be established in the coming weeks. The PIA must have the right people on its board, with the majority representing the public interest and not the self-interest of the investment sellers.

Had such an organisation been created under the Financial Services Act, there would be no need now for pensions helpline to be set up for the nurses, miners and other employees who have had their pensions transferred in the past five years, and who now fear they have been badly advised by salesmen seeking commission for themselves rather than the best advice for their clients. The PIA is a last chance for the investment industry to get it right. It needs not only to have a strong no-nonsense team setting the agenda, but also must set rules tough enough to keep rogues out in the cold.

If the rules are even rigorous enough just to catch the plain negligent, that would still be better protection than



LINDSAY COOK  
Deputy Business Editor

that all has not been perfect. Some investment houses now agree that investors should know how much a salesman stands to earn from selling a product — typically £507 for a £50 a month endowment policy.

But more than a change of attitude is needed. Salesmen must feel that their livelihood is on the line if they consistently recommend the product with the highest commission, rather than the one that is most appropriate. They must feel they will be caught if they browbeat investors to put all their money at risk in the stock market or if they tempt nurses, miners, teachers or anyone else out of perfectly good pension schemes into personal pensions that will never match the ones they are leaving.

The message from the existing regulators seems to have been "if you get caught, just make sure your paperwork is in order". Even those firms subject to investors' complaints can, and do, thumb their noses in the face of mounting evidence against them. One firm, in particular, had a very large number of complaints when markets were falling. Unfortunately, these grievances did not abate as the stock market roared away last year. The PIA cannot afford to ignore the voice of investors.

No-one is suggesting that the job will be easy. Worthwhile achievements never are. The PIA's membership should expect some decisions to hurt. Investment regulation by consensus is too cozy to offer any real protection to the investors who deserve it.

investors have been able to expect in the past. There are many in the industry who believe that "careless advisers" cause as much long-term damage as fraudsters. The distinction between the two is a fine one.

The Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association (Fimbra) appears consistently to have failed to spot the fraudsters, the commission-bandits and the careless.

The Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation (Lautro) has presided over the fiasco of over-zealous pension transfers, the over-selling of with-profits bonds and a dramatic rise in the commission rates paid to salesmen for selling the products that are not always in the best investment interests of the customers.

The Investment Management Regulatory Organisation never caught up with the wrong-doing of Robert Maxwell. The PIA could hardly do worse than its predecessors when it comes to public protection. It should be helped to do better by the change of attitude that has taken place over the last 12 months. Insurance companies have admitted



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## Tessa awaits investors' verdict

'Tessas' interest rates may have fallen, but they retain a certain allure. Liz Dolan reports

On Monday, up to 4 million investors will be able to celebrate the new year by topping up their Tax-Exempt Special Savings Accounts (Tessas) for 1994. If the past is any guide, most will again put in the full £1,800 annual allowance.

However, in the three years since Tessas began, rates have tumbled from 14-15 per cent to around 6 per cent and some commentators fear a less enthusiastic response this time. It is worth noting, though, that

**'Taxpayers would have to fish in very much riskier waters to achieve healthier returns'**

higher-rate taxpayers would have to fish in very much riskier waters to achieve healthier returns.

National Savings' five-year fixed rate bond offers 5.4 per cent tax-free, and its index-linked bond pays inflation plus 3 per cent. Early withdrawal penalties are on a sliding scale. If in the first year, no interest at all is paid.

Tessas lose their tax-free status if any of the underlying capital is withdrawn within the five-year period. Taxpayers then have to pay tax on the

accrued interest and any remaining money is transferred to lower-paying, taxable accounts. Even in these circumstances, however, account holders

will have done better than with most alternatives.

Sheila Bishop, of Walton on the Hill, Surrey, was one of the first to open a Tessa with the Alliance & Leicester. Since then, the balance has grown to £2,000, plus interest of £182.69.

She wishes she could afford more than the £25 she puts into the account each month. However, in the past three years, she has married and given birth to Oliver James, now six months, increasing pressure on household income.

The Alliance & Leicester's Tessa currently pays 6.65 per cent annually, or 6.45 per cent monthly. The minimum investment is £10.



Sheila Bishop has remained a dedicated Tessa investor with the Alliance and Leicester.

Provider	1991 (£)	Provider	1993 (£)
Cheltenham & Gloucester (max)	15,153.01	Halifax	12,135.43
Save & Prosper (variable)	15,113.46	Bradford & Bingley (high return)	12,071.43
Bradford & Bingley (high return)	14,900.00	Woolwich	12,002.54
National Westminster	14,868.00	National & Provincial	11,985.28
Alliance & Leicester	14,748.00	Cheltenham & Gloucester (max)	11,985.00
Woolwich	14,659.50	Alliance & Leicester	11,946.41
Nationwide	14,655.95	Abbey National	11,830.28
Halifax	14,577.00	Nationwide	11,802.61
Abbey National	14,441.00	National Westminster	11,544.05
National & Provincial	14,409.00	Save & Prosper (variable)	11,413.30
Lloyds	14,319.25	Barclays	11,401.05
Midland	14,269.48	Midland	11,365.15
Barclays	14,035.79	Lloyds	11,300.28

## THE A-Z of WARRANTS

Warrants Alert, The Sion, Nailsea, Bristol, BS19 2EP. Tel: 0275-855558 - The McHattie Group

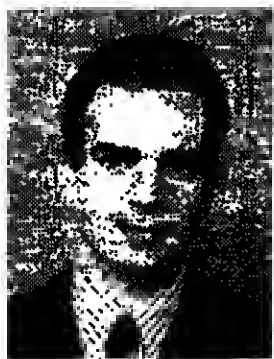
**A** is for Abtrust New Dawn 'B' warrants, which we advised subscribers to buy at 8p in October of 1992. The current price is 161p - an astonishing rise of 1,912.5%. This provides a dramatic demonstration of the 'gearing' effect of warrants which can provide such large profits. After all, Abtrust New Dawn shares rose by only 193% over the same period.

**B** is for BTR, one of the large 'blue-chip' companies which supports the UK warrants market. These warrants are easy to trade and to follow.

**C** is for Capital Gains, something for which warrants are ideally suited. Warrants have the potential for much larger gains than shares, and in rising markets they produce some astonishing profits - IF you have the right information.

**D** is for Discount, our special offer to new subscribers. Over the next year we will demonstrate the tremendous opportunities which warrants can provide, after which we are sure you will be pleased to join our growing list of regular subscribers. In the meantime you can subscribe for a year at our 1994 price of just £49.95 - a discount of £50! This offer is limited, so please subscribe now to take advantage of this reduction.

**E** is for Editor. Andrew McHattie has edited Warrants Alert since 1989 and is well known as the UK's leading independent warrants analyst. He is the author of the best-selling Pitman/Financial Times book, *The Investor's Guide to Warrants*.



**F** is for Fleming Chinese Investment Trust, one of a number of recent investment trust issues with warrants attached. Warrants Alert covers all new issues and will advise you whether to buy more warrants, hold your entitlement, or sell them in the market.

**G** is for Gartmore Emerging Pacific, whose warrants we recommended in January at 17p, then again in February at 21p (mid-prices). The current price is 113p.

**H** is for Hanson, whose warrants carry the right to subscribe for one share at 300p at any time until 30th September 1997. *The Warrants Directory*, which is sent free to all new subscribers, lists the full subscription terms for all UK warrants.

**I** is for Introductory Guide. Don't worry if you haven't invested in warrants before - every subscriber receives a free copy of our essential introductory booklet. This will provide you with concise explanations of what warrants are, where they come from, how they are evaluated, and what all the jargon means.

**N** is for Newsletter. Subscribers receive the Warrants Alert newsletter promptly on the first Saturday of every month. This keeps you right up to date with all market news, telling you which warrants to buy (and why), which to avoid, and when to take your profits.

**O** is for Oriental Smaller Companies warrants, which were available for 30p on their first day of dealings in April. The current price is 148p.

**P** is for Paribas French Investment Trust 'B' series warrants, which we advised buying at 8p in January 1993. The current price is 38.5p.

**Q** is for Query. How do I deal in warrants? The answer is that you deal in exactly the same way as shares, with the same dealing charges. You can deal through your existing broker, or we can provide one for you.

**R** is for Risk. Warrants do carry a higher risk than shares, and we would not advise anyone to invest in the warrants market without the benefit of specialist advice. You must be properly informed before dealing.

**S** is for Stock Exchange. All of the warrants we cover are fully listed on the Stock Exchange just like ordinary shares. There are over 195 warrants traded, forming one of the most exciting markets in the UK.

**T** is for Track Record. We are proud of our advice and the performance of our 'tips'. Our average gain from ALL recommendations over the last twelve months is 136.4%. This covers a total of 25 recommendations, 23 of which have risen in value, and 14 of which have more than doubled in price.

**U** is for Unique. Warrants Alert is the only publication dedicated to UK warrants, and has been published since 1989. There is no other source which provides the private investor with such expert information and advice.

**W** is for What Our Subscribers Have to Say. With our track record it is not surprising that our existing subscribers seem very happy:

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 FNM, South Glamorgan  
*"A valuable tip sheet which I still look forward to after three years."*  
 RSB, North Humberide  
*"Simply the best."*  
 FBL, Newport  
 TPC, Nottingham

**Z** is for Zero, the amount you pay for the FREE publications we send to all new subscribers. When you subscribe you will receive our booklet *An Introductory Guide to Warrants*; our reference guide *The Warrants Directory*; plus fortnightly updates to supplement your newsletter.

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# Timely tips to keep finances tidy

Jill Insley hears the experts' advice to everyone making a new year resolution to get their investment, tax and pension affairs in good order

The start of a year is a good time for investors to take stock of their financial affairs. At its most basic, this might involve no more than checking that money is not languishing in building society accounts paying a poor rate of interest. A review of more complicated areas, such as pensions and tax, may need help from a financial adviser.

Nick Bamford, pensions director at Weybourne Financial Services, says that investors should check how much state pension they will be entitled to on retirement, if they retain their current employment status, by sending form BR19 to the Department of Social Security. It is available from local DSS offices.

"When you get your state pension forecast back, you realise just how poor you are going to be," he says. Mr Bamford advises investors also to find out what percentage of current income their personal pension or company pension scheme will provide. In particular, women under 44 should find out how much extra they would need to pay into their pension plan to enable them to retire at 60, if they wish, rather than the new female state pension age of 65, to be phased in from 2010.

Investors should ensure that pension death benefits are written in trust. Mr Bamford says: "Not all investors make it to pensionable age. Take steps to write the death benefits in trust so they are paid speedily to the right people

and to avoid inheritance tax. The insurance company or your financial adviser should provide the documentation."

Mark Ritter and Frank Haskew, consultants with Rathbone Brothers, urge investors to consider whether their life cover is adequate. Rathbone Brothers advises



"The investor should check whether his term insurance can be obtained more cheaply" — Mark Ritter

that, as a rule of thumb, the principal wage earner should be covered for up to ten times salary plus the amount of the mortgage.

Mr Ritter says: "The investor should check whether his term insurance can be obtained more cheaply — rates have moved down a bit recent-

ly. Policies should be written in trust, even where the benefit is for a spouse, so proceeds can be paid without the delay of probate to the beneficiaries."

Chris Wicks, personal financial planning adviser with King Street Financial Services, points out that anyone dying without a will may leave their spouse with inadequate provision, and that unmarried partners have no automatic entitlement to a deceased person's estate.

Although Mr Wicks advises investors to make a will, he says: "Common wills leaving all to the spouse are not tax-efficient because they fail to take advantage of the £150,000 nil-rate inheritance tax band." If the whole estate passes to the spouse, no tax is due. Giving up to £150,000 to children in a will is tax free, which means that the nil-rate band can be used twice, since it will apply again on the death of the second spouse.

"Seek professional advice and avoid DIY wills," he adds.

Fiona Price, managing director of Fiona Price & Partners, recommends taking advantage of the tax-free income and growth offered by a personal equity plan (Pep). Investors have until April 5 to put up to £6,000 into an ordinary Pep investing in shares, unit trusts and investment trusts, and up to £3,000 into a single-company Pep.

She says: "While there is no set period for your money to be invested, it is wise to think in terms of five years to give it a



'Companies involved in environmental activities arguably are going to do well' — Amanda Davidson

chance to ride out the fluctuations of the stock market and to do better than the building society. Charges vary enormously, so it is essential to seek independent advice."

Amanda Davidson, partner in Holden Meechan, says that investors should seek investment management and advice that considers their ethics above everything else.

She says: "From a pure investment point of view, those companies that are involved in environmental activities — for example, water purification — arguably are going to do well

in the future. Environmental directives impact on profit."

Investors can select individual shares, choose an investment portfolio service or invest in one of the insurance funds, investment and unit trusts or Peps that are screened for ethical or environmental correctness. Ms Davidson suggests the UK-based Friends Provident Stewardship Fund or the international green NPI Global Care Fund.

David Lee, research manager with Countrywide Independent Advisers, recommends considering critical-

illness insurance, which pays a lump sum if the insured person suffers and survives any illness listed on the insurance contract. Insurance policies may include from four to 24 complaints, and will include heart attack, stroke and cancer. Some policies even cover Alzheimer's disease, multiple sclerosis and, in limited circumstances, Aids.

Mr Lee says: "The lump sum can be used to pay off the mortgage, provide medical treatment, carry out house alterations for those in wheelchairs and endless other possibilities."

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## Big drive by new credit card challengers gets into gear

After the Christmas cards, the credit cards. New year postbags will be bringing offers of new credit cards with temptingly low initial interest rates, along with other incentives, such as discounts on cars.

First off the mark has been the UK Sennie Series, Visa card from MBNA, the American Bank. In a mailing to half a million people, it promises an annual percentage rate of 17.9 per cent and no annual fee for the first two years. Balances transferred from other credit cards will be charged at 13.9 per cent until the end of July. These rates compare with 21.9 per cent being charged by Barclaycard, and 14.6 per cent by Save and Prosper.

Initially, interest charges will apply from the date the purchase appears on the statement, but from March 31, they will apply from the transac-

New Year sees the start of cut-rate interest charges and new incentives, says Rose Wild

tion date. The new card is the first venture, outside the US, for MBNA, which has set up its UK headquarters in Chester. After Citibank, MBNA is the largest lender on credit cards in America.

This week, what is promised to be "one of the UK's biggest ever direct mailing campaigns" starts, to launch the GM card from Vauxhall. "Buying power turned into horse power" is the slogan which, translated, means that for every £100 spent with the new card, £5 will go towards the cost of a new Vauxhall car.

a saving of up to £2,500 over five years. The scheme is based on the American GM card which attracted 8 million takers in its first year.

The GM card offers an APR of 19.9 per cent, and has no annual fee. Rob Dargis, manager of the GM card, explains that the card is intended as a full contender in the mass market, and that the response to their early announcement of the credit card, last October, has been beyond their expectations.

He says they took a risk by announcing early, but "No one has stepped up to challenge us."

Some new card launches that attracted custom by promising low APRs have had to revise their interest rates upwards, but Mr Dargis says: "We are the new kid on the block coming into the UK market, and we are determined to remain competitive."

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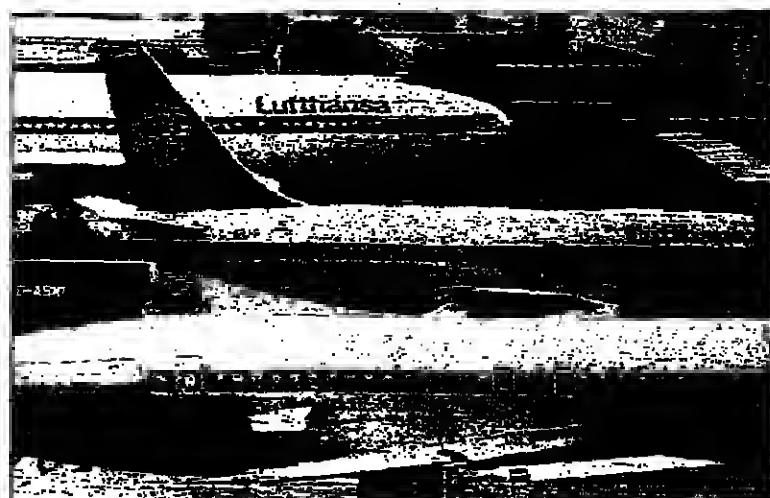
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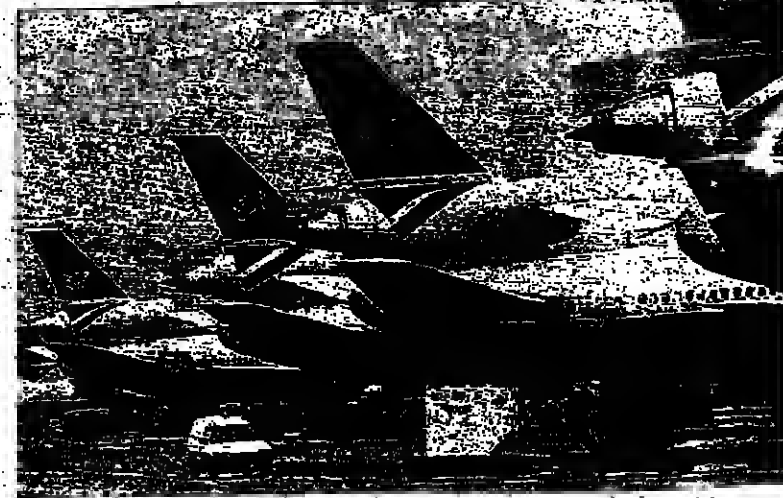
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Greater efficiency since privatisation enabled British Airways to cut costs per passenger kilometre to about half those of state-owned Lufthansa



## State sell-offs offer profits in Europe

Two new funds will allow private investors an easy way into a new market, Jill Insley writes

While Britain's privatisation programme is drawing to a close, some European countries are only beginning to sell off state-owned companies. UK investors who bought shares in privatisation issues have generally seen handsome returns. In the hope that similarly generous profits will be made in Europe, Kleinwort Benson and Mercury Asset Management are launching investment trusts to take advantage of the new opportunities.

Nearly all European nations want to sell off state-run businesses. France has already sold part of the Banque Nationale de Paris and is selling Union des Assurances

de Paris, the largest of its government-controlled insurance groups. Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, Holland, Spain and Sweden are to raise revenue by selling state-owned businesses. Former Eastern Bloc countries are expected to start privatisation programmes later in the decade.

European stock markets are likely to grow by more than £100 billion in the next five years by the addition of privatisation shares, according to

Morgan Stanley. The Kleinwort European Privatisation Investment Trust, to be launched on January 11, hopes to attract investments of £40 million. It will invest in utilities and industrial companies, financial institutions and telecommunications interests. Mercury has not yet announced the launch date of its new trust, but hopes to attract about £50 million.

Simon White, managing director of Kleinwort Benson Investment Trusts, says the fund will have no more than 20 per cent of its portfolio in UK shares, as many have been previously owned for at least five years and most of the benefits of privatisation come within this period.

Kleinwort Benson cites British Airways as an example of successful privatisation. Even in the past two years the airline has cut costs by £450 million. Its costs for carrying a passenger one kilometre are 10.6 cents; the figure for Lufthansa, which Kleinwort Benson nominates as a typical candidate for privatisation, is 20 cents.

Paul Harwood, who will manage the new Mercury trust, likens it to a recovery fund. "Investing in companies which we think have the potential to perform better," he says, "is a good time to invest in companies which we think have the potential to perform better."

Both management companies say it would be difficult and expensive for individual investors to buy shares in European privatisations.

## M&G ends upfront charges for Pep

M&G, the largest fund management company, is to abolish the 4.5 per cent initial charge for new investors in its managed income fund, personal equity plan from today (Sara McConnell writes).

Instead, it will levy an early withdrawal penalty for those who cash in their investment in the first five years. Those who cash in their investment after less than a year will be charged 4.5 per cent. After the first year, the charge tapers off gradually, to 4 per cent for investors cashing in within two years, 3 per cent within three years and 1 per cent within five years. Those holding on to their investment for five years or more will not be penalised. There is, however, still an annual 1.5 per cent management charge.

M&G claims it is the first fund manager to abolish its upfront charge on a permanent basis. Several companies, including Fidelity and Scottish Equitable, have cut their charge and imposed withdrawal penalties instead. Rachel Medill of M & G said: "The move means 100 per cent of investors' money will be invested from day one. An initial charge may be a disincentive and we are hoping to attract a lot of new Pep investors. It is a good time to attract people into equities, but they must realise it is a long term investment."

Since its launch in February 1993, the managed income fund Pep has attracted £95 million from 18,782 investors. Existing investors will not be charged early withdrawal fees as they have already paid the upfront charge. Any income reinvested will not be subject to the exit charge.

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Anglii Gp	2,300	Chf	449	Nat Power	1,000	Shel Trans	100
Arjo Wiggins	200	Courtaulds	606	Nat Wst W	138	Smith Bch	100
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BAA	312	FORE	1,200	P & O	451	Southern Elec	100
BAT Inds	1,400	GFG	1,200	Pearson	329	St Chard	200
Baxters	1,000	Heur	1,200	Peur	100	St Chard	200
Biffaward	2,300	Gen Ast	1,700	Prudential	100	Ti Gp	100
BT	3,300	Gen Elec	1,700	RMC	200	TFS	170
BTR	2,500	Glaxo	1,400	RTZ	983	Thames	120
Blk of Scot	647	Granada	338	Rank Org	500	Tesco	100
Bancroft	1,000	Grp	1,200	Reichn Cl	100	Tesco	100
BAS	487	Gulnness	717	Redland	437	Tomkins	100
Blue Circle	487	HSBC	2,500	Reed Int	437	Unilever	400
Bovis	487	ICI	3,800	Renokitt	100	Unilever	400
Bowater	487	Kan	300	Revents	577	Wabac	100
Brit Aero	755	Kingscape	757	Revents	577	Wabac	100
Brit Airways	1,200	Kingsteler	757	Ryl Int	813	Waring SGI	100
Brit Gas	1,500	Ladbroke	2,700	Ryl Bk	320	Whittd A	200
Brit Nl	1,200	Land Sec	299	Sainsbury	983	Winds Hld	200
Burns Int'l	1,200	Legal Gen	100	Sainsbury	983	Woolies	100
Cable Wire	2,300	Lloyds Sec	933	Scot & New	217	Zeneca	100

MAJOR INDICES	Call	Put
New York (midday)	2,599.8	10.18
Dow Jones	2,599.8	10.18
S&P Composite	469.86	1.23
Tokyo	11,888.39	10.02
Nikkei 225	11,888.39	10.02
Hong Kong	11,888.39	10.02
Hang Seng	11,888.39	10.02
Amsterdam	11,888.39	10.02
Frankfurt	11,888.39	10.02
Sydney	11,888.39	10.02
DAX	11,888.39	10.02

COMMODITIES	Call	Put
WTI Crude Oil	18.00	0.25
Brent Crude Oil	17.50	0.25
WTI Heating Oil	14.50	0.25
Brent Heating Oil	14.00	0.25
WTI Gasoline	13.50	0.25
Brent Gasoline	13.00	0.25
WTI Natural Gas	1.50	0.25
Brent Natural Gas	1.40	0.25
WTI Coal	1.20	0.25
Brent Coal	1.10	0.25

Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 81.3	Call	Put
London	1,000.00	0.00
New York	1,000.00	0.00
Paris	1,000.00	0.00
Frankfurt	1,000.00	0.00
Sydney	1,000.00	0.00
DAX	1,000.00	0.00

LIFFE OPTIONS	Call	Put
Alumina	100.00	0.00
Alumina	100.00	0.00
Alumina	100.00	0.00
Alumina	100.00	0.00
Alumina	100.00	0.00
Alumina	100.00	0.00

COMMODITIES REPORT	Call	Put
WTI Crude Oil	18.00	0.25
Brent Crude Oil	17.50	0.25
WTI Heating Oil	14.50	0.25
Brent Heating Oil	14.00	0.25
WTI Gasoline	13.50	0.25
Brent Gasoline	13.00	0.25
WTI Natural Gas	1.50	0.25
Brent Natural Gas	1.40	0.25
WTI Coal	1.20	0.25
Brent Coal	1.10	0.25

COMMODITIES	Call	Put
WTI Crude Oil	18.00	0.25
Brent Crude Oil	17.50	0.25
WTI Heating Oil	14.50	0.25
Brent Heating Oil	14.00	0.25
WTI Gasoline	13.50	0.25
Brent Gasoline	13.00	0.25
WTI Natural Gas	1.50	0.25
Brent Natural Gas	1.40	0.25
WTI Coal	1.20	0.25
Brent Coal	1.10	0.25

Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 81.3	Call	Put
London	1,000.00	0.00
New York	1,000.00	0.00
Paris	1,000.00	0.00
Frankfurt	1,000.00	0.00
Sydney	1,000.00	0.00
DAX	1,000.00	0.00

Underlying security price.

Underlying security price.

Underlying security price.

Underlying security price.



## How well can you manage your finances in 1994?

Test your knowledge of matters that appeared last year in *The Times* personal finance pages

1. What was the Bank of England Base Rate on January 1 1993?  
a) 7 per cent;  
b) 6.5 per cent;  
c) 6 per cent.
2. What is the maximum amount of compensation payable under the Investors Compensation Scheme?  
a) £100,000;  
b) £48,000;  
c) £75,000.
3. What is the maximum combined total which can be invested in a general Personal Equity Plan and a single company PEP?  
a) £9,000;  
b) £6,000;  
c) £12,000.
4. If you subscribe the maximum amount each year to a Tessa, what is the limit in the fifth year?  
a) £600;  
b) £1,800;  
c) £1,150.
5. If you are a non-taxpayer what Inland Revenue form must you complete to receive interest gross?  
a) R40;  
b) R85;  
c) R121.
6. Above what limit must banks and building societies report interest earned on individual accounts to the taxman?  
a) £2,500;  
b) £1,000;  
c) no limit.
7. At what level does Inheritance Tax start to bite?  
a) £250,000;  
b) £150,000;  
c) £65,000.
8. What is the name of the new National Savings grant bond announced in last November's budget, which is due to be launched in January?  
a) Guaranteed Pensioners' Bond;  
b) Pensioners' Guaranteed Income Bond;  
c) Senior Citizens' Savings Bond.
9. What is the married couples' allowance for under-65s in the current tax year?  
a) £2,500;  
b) £1,720;  
c) £1,440.
10. The single person's tax allowance for everyone up to the age of 65 is:  
a) £3,445;  
b) £2,750;  
c) £3,670.
11. When VAT is levied on fuel from next April, the initial rate will be:  
a) 17.5 per cent;  
b) 8 per cent;  
c) 14.3 per cent.
12. A City regulator is investigating up to 500,000 cases where investors were wrongly advised to opt out of company pension schemes and start personal pension plans. It is:  
a) Lauro;  
b) The SIB;  
c) Imro.
13. Tax relief on mortgages under Miras is due to be cut in April 1994, and again in April 1995. Are the new levels respectively:  
a) 25 per cent and 20 per cent;  
b) 20 per cent and 15 per cent;  
c) 25 per cent and 15 per cent.

Answers: 1a; 2b; 3a; 4a; 5b; 6c; 7b; 8b; 9b; 10a; 11b; 12b; 13b.

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## Doubts on how pensions were sold

From Nigel Chambers  
Sir, I am concerned that the publicity given to the SIB's pensions transfer review implies that all the wrongdoing lies with the insurance companies and promoters of personal pensions. Their sales people may be guilty of sins of commission but I believe the occupational pension schemes must bear some responsibility for sins of omission.

What type of pension scheme is it that has so badly presented the benefits it can offer to employees that they can be so easily sold a personal pension policy? What warnings were issued to the employee, ex-employee, or their adviser prior to the transfer from the scheme? Were the alternative benefits — which may indeed have been superior — properly presented?

Why should the whole burden for compensation be put on the insurance company, especially when it seems that some schemes are asking for

exorbitant amounts for reinstating members' benefits? Why indeed should schemes be allowed to refuse to take back employees who have made an incorrect decision? Would it not be possible for the Government to amend the appropriate legislation or Inland Revenue rules? Obviously, if wrong advice is given, the insurance companies should pay appropriate costs. However, many pension schemes, and the employees who bear their costs, will have benefited because of a decision to transfer away from the scheme. If compensation is to be paid, I trust it will be calculated in such a way that no party is better off financially. I hope the new SIB Advisory Committee will address these issues.

Yours faithfully,  
NIGEL CHAMBERS,  
Chambers Townsend Consultancy,  
Lennig House,  
Masons Avenue,  
Croydon, Surrey.

## Mixed prospects for winning with Ernie

From G.A. Whyman  
Sir, I suggest Joan Cowper is unduly pessimistic about Ernie's capabilities (Weekend Money Letters, December 13), although she is careful not to tell us of her experiences between 1977 and 1992.

My wife and I thought Ernie very clever when he sent us each £50 last month as we were preparing to celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary. However, we regard that as frittering money and regret

that it would seem to reduce our prospects of a prize to alter significantly our financial situation. With the present abysmal returns available from building societies and the like a modest flutter with Ernie seems to have much to commend it.

Yours optimistically,  
G. A. WHYMAN,  
The Lindens,  
Florance Lane,  
Groombridge,  
Kent.

## LETTERS



## Regulators are alive and well, but asleep

From R. B. Carter  
Sir, Re: Lancashire & Yorkshire Association. Our experience of "safe" investment for cautious small savers has not been encouraging. Our choices have included the following:

1. U.K. Provident Institution (rescued by Friends Provident); 2. London Life (rescued by Australian Mutual Provident); 3. Lancashire & Yorkshire Association (awaiting compensation for maladmin-

istration). We are frequently told that savings are vital for the heart of the economy. If, however, the mutual life organisations and friendly societies cannot be trusted, who can be? It seems to us that the so-called "watchdogs", such as the Registrar of Friendly Societies and the Insurance Division of the DTI are alive and well, but asleep.

Yours faithfully,  
R. B. CARTER,  
1, Repton Close, Bedford.

## Trying to set the record straight

From Norman Stait  
Sir, From Clerical Medical Pensions: is this some sort of world record for incom-

prehensibility?

"Any lump sum in accordance with Provision 7 of the Second Schedule shall be an amount equal to the Basic Nominal Fund that would be applied to calculate the Alternative Vesong Date or if greater an amount equal to the

## Tax puzzle for married couples

From C. G. Cox  
Sir, We were told in the Budget, and today in your Budget briefings (*The Times*, December 4), that the married couple's allowance is not only to be frozen at £1,720 but is "due to fall to 20 per cent in April".

But 20 per cent of what? If, as I suspect, it really means that the allowance is restricted to the 20 per cent tax band, this

will effectively reduce that band from £3,000, in 1994/95, to £1,720. Is this the intention? And for 1995/96 it is to be "reduced to 15 per cent" — again, of what? Does this mean that there will be a new, 15 per cent tax band in 1995? I am baffled!

Yours faithfully,  
C. G. COX,  
18 St Michael's Gardens,  
South Petherton, Somerset.

KPMG Peat Marwick replies: The restriction of various income tax reliefs to 20 per cent is apparently causing some confusion. This relates specifically to the amount of relief available in 1994-5 in respect of the married couples, additional personal and widow's bereavement allowances. Using the Married Couple 65-74 Table reproduced in *The Times* following the November 1993 Budget as an example, if we look at the husband with an income of £8,248 and taxable income of £1,383, one would expect that, since the taxable income falls well within the lower rate band, the liability would be 20 per cent of £1,383 (ie £276.60). In fact, his actual liability is £329, calculated as follows:

INCOME	£	8,248
Less		
Single Personal Allowance (65-74)	4,200	
	4,048	
Charged at	3,000 @ 20% = 600	
	1,048 @ 25% = 262	862
	4,048	
Less		
Married Couples Allowance (65-74)	2,665 @ 20% = 533	
	1,383	
Tax		329

In 1995-6 the relief for these allowances will be restricted to 15 per cent so that, in the above example, if all things stay the same for 1995-6 the husband's tax liability will increase by £133.25.

premiums received by the Society." Yours faithfully, NORMAN STAIT, White Eaves, Burmhill Road, Market Harborough, Leicestershire.

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THE TIMES SATURDAY JANUARY 1 1994

[illegible]



**ACCOUNT DAYS:** Dealings began December 13. Dealings ended yesterday. \$Contango day January 4. Settlement day January 10. \$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388</
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Group	Age	Sex	Height	Weight	Arm span	Hand span	Hand length	Hand breadth	Hand area	Hand volume	Hand index	Hand length/width	Hand length/area	Hand length/volume	Hand length/width/area	Hand length/width/volume	Hand length/width/area/volume
Group 1	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 2	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 3	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 4	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 5	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 6	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 7	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 8	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 9	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 10	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 11	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 12	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 13	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 14	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 15	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 16	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 17	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 18	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 19	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 20	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 21	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 22	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 23	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 24	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 25	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 26	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 27	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 28	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 29	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 30	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 31	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 32	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 33	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 34	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 35	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 36	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 37	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 38	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 39	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 40	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 41	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 42	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 43	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 44	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 45	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 46	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 47	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 48	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 49	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 50	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 51	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 52	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 53	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 54	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 55	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 56	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 57	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 58	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 59	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 60	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 61	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 62	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 63	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 64	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 65	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 66	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 67	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 68	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 69	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 70	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 71	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 72	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 73	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 74	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 75	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 76	163	M	1.72	64.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1	10.5	22.1
Group 77																	

[illegible]

Hannibal City	26	..	..	..
Hannibal High	26	..	..	..
Hannibal Jr-Sr	26	..	..	..
Harrison	299	..	..	10.18
Harrison High	299	..	..	..
Harrison Jr-Sr	299	..	..	..
Hartsville	3	..	..	..
Hartsville High	3	..	..	..
Hartsville Jr-Sr	3	..	..	..
Henry	791	..	3.71	12.8
Henry High	791	..	..	..
Henry Jr-Sr	791	..	..	..
Hickman	1	..	..	..
Hickman High	1	..	..	..
Hickman Jr-Sr	1	..	..	..
Hickory	52	..	..	..
Hickory High	52	..	..	..
Hickory Jr-Sr	52	..	..	..
Hickory A	52	..	..	..
Hickory B	52	..	..	..
Hickory C	52	..	..	..
Hickory D	52	..	..	..
Hickory E	52	..	..	..
Hickory F	52	..	..	..
Hickory G	52	..	..	..
Hickory H	52	..	..	..
Hickory I	52	..	..	..
Hickory J	52	..	..	..
Hickory K	52	..	..	..
Hickory L	52	..	..	..
Hickory M	52	..	..	..
Hickory N	52	..	..	..
Hickory O	52	..	..	..
Hickory P	52	..	..	..
Hickory Q	52	..	..	..
Hickory R	52	..	..	..
Hickory S	52	..	..	..
Hickory T	52	..	..	..
Hickory U	52	..	..	..
Hickory V	52	..	..	..
Hickory W	52	..	..	..
Hickory X	52	..	..	..
Hickory Y	52	..	..	..
Hickory Z	52	..	..	..
Hickory AA	52	..	..	..
Hickory AB	52	..	..	..
Hickory AC	52	..	..	..
Hickory AD	52	..	..	..
Hickory AE	52	..	..	..
Hickory AF	52	..	..	..
Hickory AG	52	..	..	..
Hickory AH	52	..	..	..
Hickory AI	52	..	..	..
Hickory AJ	52	..	..	..
Hickory AK	52	..	..	..
Hickory AL	52	..	..	..
Hickory AM	52	..	..	..
Hickory AN	52	..	..	..
Hickory AO	52	..	..	..
Hickory AP	52	..	..	..
Hickory AQ	52	..	..	..
Hickory AR	52	..	..	..
Hickory AS	52	..	..	..
Hickory AT	52	..	..	..
Hickory AU	52	..	..	..
Hickory AV	52	..	..	..
Hickory AW	52	..	..	..
Hickory AX	52	..	..	..
Hickory AY	52	..	..	..
Hickory AZ	52	..	..	..
Hickory BA	52	..	..	..
Hickory BB	52	..	..	..
Hickory BC	52	..	..	..
Hickory BD	52	..	..	..
Hickory BE	52	..	..	..
Hickory BF	52	..	..	..
Hickory BG	52	..	..	..
Hickory BH	52	..	..	..
Hickory BI	52	..	..	..
Hickory BJ	52	..	..	..
Hickory BK	52	..	..	..
Hickory BL	52	..	..	..
Hickory BM	52	..	..	..
Hickory BN	52	..	..	..
Hickory BO	52	..	..	..
Hickory BP	52	..	..	..
Hickory BQ	52	..	..	..
Hickory BR	52	..	..	..
Hickory BS	52	..	..	..
Hickory BT	52	..	..	..
Hickory BU	52	..	..	..
Hickory BV	52	..	..	..
Hickory BW	52	..	..	..
Hickory BX	52	..	..	..
Hickory BY	52	..	..	..
Hickory BZ	52	..	..	..
Hickory CA	52	..	..	..
Hickory CB	52	..	..	..
Hickory CC	52	..	..	..
Hickory CD	52	..	..	..
Hickory CE	52	..	..	..
Hickory CF	52	..	..	..
Hickory CG	52	..	..	..
Hickory CH	52	..	..	..
Hickory CI	52	..	..	..
Hickory CJ	52	..	..	..
Hickory CK	52	..	..	..
Hickory CL	52	..	..	..
Hickory CM	52	..	..	..
Hickory CN	52	..	..	..
Hickory CO	52	..	..	..
Hickory CP	52	..	..	..
Hickory CQ	52	..	..	..
Hickory CR	52	..	..	..
Hickory CS	52	..	..	..
Hickory CT	52	..	..	..
Hickory CU	52	..	..	..
Hickory CV	52	..	..	..
Hickory CW	52	..	..	..
Hickory CX	52	..	..	..
Hickory CY	52	..	..	..
Hickory CZ	52	..	..	..
Hickory DA	52	..	..	..
Hickory DB	52	..	..	..
Hickory DC	52	..	..	..
Hickory DD	52	..	..	..
Hickory DE	52	..	..	..
Hickory DF	52	..	..	..
Hickory DG	52	..	..	..
Hickory DH	52	..	..	..
Hickory DI	52	..	..	..
Hickory DJ	52	..	..	..
Hickory DK	52	..	..	..
Hickory DL	52	..	..	..
Hickory DM	52	..	..	..
Hickory DN	52	..	..	..
Hickory DO	52	..	..	..
Hickory DP	52	..	..	..
Hickory DQ	52	..	..	..
Hickory DR	52	..	..	..
Hickory DS	52	..	..	..
Hickory DT	52	..	..	..
Hickory DU	52	..	..	..
Hickory DV	52	..	..	..
Hickory DW	52	..	..	..
Hickory DX	52	..	..	..
Hickory DY	52	..	..	..
Hickory DZ	52	..	..	..
Hickory EA	52	..	..	..
Hickory EB	52	..	..	..
Hickory EC	52	..	..	..
Hickory ED	52	..	..	..
Hickory EE	52	..	..	..
Hickory EF	52	..	..	..
Hickory EG	52	..	..	..
Hickory EH	52	..	..	..
Hickory EI	52	..	..	..
Hickory EJ	52	..	..	..
Hickory EK	52	..	..	..
Hickory EL	52	..	..	..
Hickory EM	52	..	..	..
Hickory EN	52	..	..	..
Hickory EO	52	..	..	..
Hickory EP	52	..	..	..
Hickory EQ	52	..	..	..
Hickory ER	52	..	..	..
Hickory ES	52	..	..	..
Hickory ET	52	..	..	..
Hickory EU	52	..	..	..
Hickory EV	52	..	..	..
Hickory EW	52	..	..	..
Hickory EX	52	..	..	..
Hickory EY	52	..	..	..
Hickory EZ	52	..	..	..
Hickory FA	52	..	..	..
Hickory FB	52	..	..	..
Hickory FC	52	..	..	..
Hickory FD	52	..	..	..
Hickory FE	52	..	..	..
Hickory FF	52	..	..	..
Hickory FG	52	..	..	..
Hickory FH	52	..	..	..
Hickory FI	52	..	..	..
Hickory FJ	52	..	..	..
Hickory FK	52	..	..	..
Hickory FL	52	..	..	..
Hickory FM	52	..	..	..
Hickory FN	52	..	..	..
Hickory FO	52	..	..	..
Hickory FP	52	..	..	..
Hickory FQ	52	..	..	..
Hickory FR	52	..	..	..
Hickory FS	52	..	..	..
Hickory FT	52	..	..	..
Hickory FU	52	..	..	..
Hickory FV	52	..	..	..
Hickory FW	52	..	..	..
Hickory FX	52	..	..	..
Hickory FY	52	..	..	..
Hickory FZ	52	..	..	..
Hickory GA	52	..	..	..
Hickory GB	52	..	..	..
Hickory GC	52	..	..	..
Hickory GD	52	..	..	..
Hickory GE	52	..	..	..
Hickory GF	52	..	..	..
Hickory GG	52	..	..	..
Hickory GH	52	..	..	..
Hickory GI	52	..	..	..
Hickory GJ	52	..	..	..
Hickory GK	52	..	..	..
Hickory GL	52	..	..	..
Hickory GM	52	..	..	..
Hickory GN	52	..	..	..
Hickory GO	52	..	..	..
Hickory GP	52	..	..	..
Hickory GQ	52	..	..	..
Hickory GR	52	..	..	..
Hickory GS	52	..	..	..
Hickory GT	52	..	..	..
Hickory GU	52	..	..	..
Hickory GV	52	..	..	..
Hickory GW	52	..	..	..
Hickory GX	52	..	..	..
Hickory GY	52	..	..	..
Hickory GZ	52	..	..	..
Hickory HA	52	..	..	..
Hickory HB	52	..	..	..
Hickory HC	52	..	..	..
Hickory HD	52	..	..	..
Hickory HE	52	..	..	..
Hickory HF	52	..	..	..
Hickory HG	52	..	..	..
Hickory HH	52	..	..	..
Hickory HI	52	..	..	..
Hickory HJ	52	..	..	..
Hickory HK	52	..	..	..
Hickory HL	52	..	..	..
Hickory HM	52	..	..	..
Hickory HN	52	..	..	..
Hickory HO	52	..	..	..
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Hickory HQ	52	..	..	..
Hickory HR	52	..	..	..
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Hickory HT	52	..	..	..
Hickory HU	52	..	..	..
Hickory HV	52	..	..	..
Hickory HW	52	..	..	..
Hickory HX	52	..	..	..
Hickory HY	52	..	..	..
Hickory HZ	52	..	..	..
Hickory IA	52	..	..	..
Hickory IB	52	..	..	..
Hickory IC	52	..	..	..
Hickory ID	52	..	..	..
Hickory IE	52	..	..	..
Hickory IF	52	..	..	..
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1. **Identify the main topic of the passage.**  
 2. **Summarize the main idea in your own words.**  
 3. **Identify the author's purpose.**  
 4. **Identify the author's tone.**  
 5. **Identify the author's style.**  
 6. **Identify the author's audience.**  
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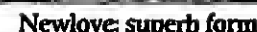






**BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE**

Fox wanted his former charge so much so that he put up a guarantee to underwrite the fee. Thirteen tries have been the return to date, but it is the confidence Newlove has spread, as much as his finish-



Fox wanted his former charge so much so that he put up a guarantee to underwrite the fee. Thirteen tries have been the return to date, but it is the confidence Newlove has spread, as much as his finish-

The favourite for the under-19 title is Natalie Grainger, of South Africa; Jenny Tranfield, of Yorkshire, and Donia Leaves, of Sussex, are seeded closest to her. But Shabana is quite capable of increasing Egypt's successes if Maha Zein and May Hegazy, her world championship colleagues, get a chance to shake up the opposition on the way to the finals on Wednesday.

Kiwi prop forward, has become the third English-based player to be recruited by the new Auckland Warriors club, which has already signed the Wigan pair, Andy Platt and Dean Bell.

**Davies has little knowledge of basketball tactics but she wants to help secure players' financial future**

A City accountant, goes beyond the call of duty. The mother of two sons, she spends 60 to 70 hours a week on her cause — and, to date, about £5,000 of her own money.

The notion of a players' union was first discussed a few years ago by two England internationals, Dan Lloyd and Dip Donaldson, when they were nearing the end of their playing careers. It was resurrected again by Martin Hemlan, the Guildford and England player, soon after Davies had found out how fragile their situation was.

Stories of fly-by-night owners who have come and gone, rarely dipping into their own pockets and leaving players and clubs in the lurch, were legion long before the recession. But for now, for an annual subscription of £28, the players can dip into their own pockets for the privilege of a more secure future.

**SIMON  
BARNES**  
On Saturday

seen again.  
Aussie  
Rules result of the year:  
Woodsdale 447, Mount  
Pleasant 2. "We got beat, but  
the boys tried really hard,"  
the manager said.

650 **Sponsorship of the year: Trudy Todd's attempt on the world surfing championship was backed by a raffle that offered as first prize a**



tempt on the world surfing championship was backed by a raffle that offered as first prize a date with the lady of your choice from Club 13, an

New Year resolution: this column will make no more jokes about Captain Brown. Well, it will try.

SEP 1993

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**RUGBY LEAGUE**  
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 Jones' Elite Championship  
 Halifax v Leeds  
 Bradford v Leigh  
 Huddersfield v Hull KR (3.15)  
 Hammers v Widnes  
 Wakefield Trinity v Featherstone (12.0)  
 Macclesfield v Wigan  
 second division  
 Warrley v Batley  
 Wakefield v Wharfedale (2.0)  
 Dewsbury v Hunslet (2.30)  
 Huddersfield v Swinton  
 Chorley v London Crusaders  
 Wakefield Trinity v Rotherham (3.15)  
 Huddersfield v Barrow

**RUGBY UNION**  
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## Controversial Olympian returns unnoticed keen to impress

# Motivation of Chinese puts Pieterse back on track

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

IF YOU count back the 15 weeks to the beginning of the most intense period of athletic training which Zola Pieterse has undergone, it takes you to the time when the Chinese national games reached their conclusion. This is no coincidence. The former Miss Budd has drawn fresh motivation from the glut of world records which China's women collected in September.

"I do not think I have ever trained so well over such a period," Pieterse said yesterday. Some indication of the good it has done her will be given today when she runs her first cross-country race in Britain since 1988, when she ended her controversial association

for Britain in the Olympic Games in Los Angeles. Yesterday's Zola was Zola the afterthought, Zola the substitute.

The phone call came to her home in Bloemfontein late on Wednesday. "Lynn Jennings has dropped out, will you fill in?" was the plea from the organisers of the County Durham international cross-country meeting.

Pieterse, needing a race, was not going to decline as a protest against them not waiting her before Jennings fell ill. Durham had even more reason to be relieved at Pieterse's positive response when, the next day, Sonia O'Sullivan, the 1,500 metres world champion, silver medal-winner, withdrew injured.

They already had a race between Lynn and Sonia, so they were not really interested in having me," Pieterse said. "But athletics is a business. If someone else is more in demand than you, that is what business is about." The Durham budget would not stretch to having Jennings, O'Sullivan and Pieterse.

Jennings has won three world cross-country titles, all in the past four years. Pieterse won two while running for England in 1985 and 1986. She thinks she has one more in her; one for South Africa. Perhaps this winter.

A simple reply deals with the enquiry about her chances. "Are the Chinese running?" she says. "I believe I can run better than last season, but it depends on the Chinese." Pieterse was fourth last winter but had not trained as hard as she has been lately.

As each year passes, so Pieterse's desire to rise again seems to increase. She was three years back in South Africa before she showed an interest in returning to serious training. "I had reached a point where I did not miss running at all," she said.

The holder of four British records, Pieterse is determined to do the best she can against the Chinese. "My attitude is to give my best and, if they beat me and I can still run my best times, I will be satisfied." For the past 15 weeks, she has averaged 75 miles a week in training.

The short notice for the race today over 5,000 metres, in



Pieterse has regained the enthusiasm that took her to world supremacy. Photograph: Stewart Kendall

which she faces Olga Bondarenko, the 1988 Olympic 10,000 metres champion, and a solid British entry including Alison Wyeth and Paula Radcliffe, makes Pieterse's task hard but not impossible. She was unable to taper her training in time to be fresh.

However, the opportunity of

a race was not to be missed. It is two months since her last one and, with the South African trials for the world championships being held on January 22, Durham will help her acquire race sharpness.

Now 27, Pieterse intends to continue until the 1996 Olympic Games. Her trophy cabinet

displays reminders of her years in the spotlight: an England cross-country team vest and photographs of the 1984 Olympic Games, when she was involved in the 3,000 metres tumble with Mary Decker.

Pieterse keeps her cabinet as a true record rather than a

selective one. "Some of the photographs are of me and Mary," she says. "There are other souvenirs, dolls and stuff... no medal." The aim is to rectify that in Atlanta, which means the Chinese women will occupy her thoughts for some time to come.

## Robinson likely to provide bulk on Ireland flank

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WHILE Ireland's rugby union selectors are not expected to mirror Wales in making wholesale changes to their five nations' championship side, they will study the trial at Lansdowne Road tomorrow with care. The team to play France in Paris on January 15 will be named later and the composition of the back-five forwards remains in doubt.

From the team that finished last season in a blaze of glory and then beat Romania in November, Denis McBride and his potential replacement, Pat O'Hara, are already ruled out of the match in Paris with damaged knee ligaments. So a vacancy exists at open-side flanker which may be filled by the lanky Brian Robinson.

Robinson's 19 caps have come mostly at No 8, but the vogue is to go for as much height as possible in the back row, so the 6ft 4in Robinson plays in the Whites, the senior side, tomorrow, alongside the uncapped Chris Pim, of Old Wesley, and Noel Mannion, the Lansdowne No 8, who has played only one international in the past two years.

A clutch of injuries has affected the trial teams but has not removed Peter Clohessy from right-head prop in the Whites. Clohessy was severely trampled during the A international with Scotland in Ayr on Tuesday but passed a fitness test on his back yesterday. Having served a ten-week suspension himself for stamping during the autumn, Clohessy is regarded as an automatic selection against France.

Would that the same were true for the athletic Neil Francis, the perennial enigma of the Irish second row. He has damaged a rib cartilage

and will miss the trial, David Tweed moving across from the Blues, who now field John Etheridge, once of Northampton.

The Irish Rugby Football Union has proposed to Scotland that future A internationals be moved from the traditional Christmas date and linked with the five nations' championship weekend.

Their international referees panel has also been confirmed: Alan Lewis (Leinster) and David McHugh (Munster) join Owen Doyle, Stephen Hilditch and Brian Stirling.

Melrose are not in the best of moods going into the new year. They spent last summer wondering whether Craig Chalmers, the Scotland stand-off half, might be lured south and now the rumours have started again, linking Chalmers with Bristol.

"He has no intention of leaving," Stuart Henderson, the Melrose secretary, said yesterday. "and we wish the English clubs would leave him alone. They keep calling him and if it goes any further, we may consider taking action."

The thin state of the New Year's day fixture programme indicates that English clubs have little better to do than perch on the telephone. At least Gloucester field their strongest available team for the traditional match with Moseley at the Reddings and welcome back Simon Morris, the divisional wing, after nearly four months away with damaged ankle ligaments.

Bruce Fenley, their scrum half, returns to his former club but Moseley have not selected Mike Teague, their former Gloucester No 8, who is resting a bruised shoulder.

## England students open against Irish

By DAVID HANDS

ENGLAND'S leading student rugby players begin the representative year at Bisham Abbey tomorrow, though their programme has been curtailed by the loss of the fixture with Scottish Students. The Scots, beaten 17-20 last season, are concentrating on their under-21 and universities sides and have withdrawn from the proposed student international on February 4.

England will open, therefore, against the Irish at Bournemouth on February 18 before going on to student internationals against France in Dunkirk on March 4 and Wales in Oxford on March 18. The five Oxford students named in the original 52-strong squad for Bisham will all hope for an appearance at Ilfley Road against the Welsh, though first they will have to win a place in the squad.

Two Cambridge students, Phil Callow and Alistair Meadows, have withdrawn with injuries and three others, Darren O'Leary and Anthony Diprose, both of West London Institute, and Richard West, of Gloucester College, are required for the divisional championship decider at Twickenham on Monday. But there will be plenty of raw material for the new coaching team of Ian Smith and John Horton.

"We are trying to build on the work done by Les Cusworth and Derek Nutt over the last three years," Pat Briggs, the team manager, said. "We want to give the players a taste of what the representative game is like and the opportunity to play some enterprising rugby."

That opportunity should be enhanced for Jonathan Sleightholme, the England under-21 wing playing for Wakefield, who is likely to be available for Bath next season if he takes up the offer of a course at Bath University.

Q Sale, of the Courage Clubs Championship second division, have announced plans to sell their Heywood Road ground for housing development. They are seeking a move either to their alternative base at Woodbourne Road, or the building of a purpose-built facility as part of a possible merger with their neighbours, Brougham Park.

## Hawick face tough test from Heriot's

By ALAN LORIMER

TRADITIONALLY, New Year's day in Scotland is a time for recovery from the hogmanay reveling of the previous night, but one rugby fixture at least has bucked the trend of total inactivity.

Although the annual New Year's day Hawick v Heriot's FP match has little to do with the realities of league rugby, this traditional "friendly" game between two of the oldest clubs in Scotland nevertheless provides a useful pointer to their form as the second part of the season commences.

The game had been scheduled for Mansfield Park but the Hawick pitch is too frosty to play on. The game has been switched to Goldenacre, in Edinburgh, but Heriot's will have a pitch inspection this morning.

Heriot's will be without Ken Milne and Andy Macdonald, rested for the international trial at Murrayfield on Monday. Also missing is Gordon Lawrie, the stand-off, who will take part in the first under-21 trial.

Lawrie's place at stand-off goes to Campbell Aitken, who played for Lothian Schools last season, and Kevin Whitaker, a former Hawick player, continues at scrum half in the absence of Mike

## Boyse helps South East retain title

By SYDNEY FRANKLIN

SOUTH EAST won the under-18 divisional hockey title for the third successive year after it slipped from East's grasp in a remarkable change of fortune at Coventry School yesterday.

East began their last match against North West needing a draw to take the title, but North West attacked more vigorously in the first half and Stuart Humphries delivered a knock-out blow at the start of the second half.

East attacked strongly towards the end, but the North West goalkeeper, Tom Margham, held out well under pressure.

Alistair Boyse, who recently joined East Grinstead from Lewes, played a big part in the 2-1 wins gained by South East over East and Midlands.

He scored the only goal of the first half against East. Richard Stamp equalised from a short corner before Danny Poulsen scored the winner for South East.

In the game against Midlands, Boyse scored a goal in each half before Mark Sully brought Midlands back into the game with a well-taken goal, leaving South East clinging to their advantage.

In an equally exciting contest for the under-16 title, Midlands piped South West on goal difference after both had scored 14 points.

South West, who had a one-point advantage over Midlands at the start of the day, were held to a 1-1 draw by North West who deprived them of victory when Kamal Bal broke free to score.

Midlands, seeking victory over North West later in the day, finally won when Luke Wardell scored the only goal of the match on the follow-up from a short corner late in the second half.

## Players lured into senior service

John Goodbody on the golden oldies whose careers are extended by the challenge of international competition and the ever-increasing rewards for sporting success



has only been since enough former players have turned 50 that the European tour could be established.

Tony Gray, who was managing director of the PGA European Seniors Tour until last month, says that one reason for its success is that the pro-am format is so attractive.

"The professionals are readily approachable, well-remembered and give advice



Connors: nice feeling

to the amateur players. They also socialise with amateurs, attending the gala dinners and so on."

However, the edge of competition is always there. Gray says: "When you get 100 tournament golfers together, the social side does sometimes go out of the window."

Trevino believes that the money just adds the "muscle" to the competition.

He said: "When Arnold Palmer started playing again, he did not need the money.

The same was true of Gary Player. They just wanted the competition."

So do the tennis players, where the ATP senior tour has two age-group events, 35 to 45, and 45 to 55. It began in 1991 in North America. In 1993 there were seven tournaments in Europe, each offering prize-money worth £75,000 in total.

This year, there will be up to 11, including one planned the week before Wimbledon, entitled The Hurlingham Seniors, in which players such as Rod Laver, Ili Nastase, Ken Rosewall, Roger Taylor, Vitas Gerulaitis and John Newcombe are expected to play.

Jim McManus, the director, says that the ATP senior tour is filling a need. "Tennis interest has grown but there are the physical limitations on the expansion. The regular circuit cannot go everywhere, and the senior tour is now becoming more acceptable to sponsors."

"Senior players can play doubles, without the wear-and-tear on the body that occurs from daily singles. Spectators enjoy the nostalgia and watching entertaining competition between personalities."

Jimmy Connors, the American tennis player who at 39 reached the semi-final of the 1991 US Open, has revelled in senior tournaments. He says: "On the senior tour, I have been playing with all the guys with whom I grew up. The whole idea of still competing and then being able to sit down and relax with my buddies is a nice feeling."

Peter Worth, of the Quintus Group, which is organising

the Hurlingham tournament, believes that the success of senior events comes from the absence of characters like Connors from the leading professional tournaments.

"The top players are not living up to their predecessors in terms of charisma," he said. "Apart from someone like Agassi, where are the characters now? People watching the senior tour see well-known personalities



Trevino: competitive

who still play well and entertain — and entertainment is partly what sport is all about."

Even in road running, the public revel in seeing famous names from the past locked in competition. This has been recognised by the Nutra-Sweet London Marathon, which for the past two years has given cash prizes to the leading veterans.

However, as Martin Duff, who writes on veteran events for *Athletics Weekly*, says: "Generally, in Britain, we run

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Saturday portrait: Gordon Strachan, by Andrew Longmore

## Peter Pan of football still hard at work on fairy-tale career

On the grounds that nobody likes their mistakes to be paraded in front of them, it is safe to assume that Alex Ferguson will endure another uncomfortable 90 minutes at Old Trafford this afternoon. Not that Manchester United, 15 points clear of third-placed Leeds at the top of the FA Carling Premiership table, have any need to fear the visit of their most persistent rivals; it is just that the sight of the elfin-like figure on the right side of the opposition's midfield will be a ghostly reminder of bad deals past.

To put it another way, imagine Gordon Strachan fetching, carrying, scurrying and harrying in Manchester United's present midfield. Perhaps Strachan, who has been criticised for too often running 40 yards with the ball only to pass it to, would not suit the more fluid style of the champions. Then again, perhaps he would. That nagging thought would be worth every penny of the paltry £300,000 Ferguson received for trading Strachan across the Pennines four years ago. Greater faith might have saved him the £3.75-million fee for Roy Keane as well.

But Ferguson, of all people, forgot that the tenacity with which Strachan had overcome suspicion of his size — he is 5ft 6in and weighs just over ten stone — early in his career could be used to equal effect in combating advancing middle age many years later. He should have known better than anyone that behind the quirks and the fads, the diet of porridge, seaweed and bananas, the ritual of the afternoon sleep (inherited from Kenny Dalglish) lay a dedicated professional, a perfectionist, ready to try anything and sacrifice much to prolong his footballing career.

At Aberdeen, Ferguson not only watched Strachan develop from raw youth into the symbol of a side that mocked the traditional order of Scottish football, but found that a sharp tongue came with the agile brain and the nimble feet. Even in the face of a temper as fearsome as Ferguson's, Strachan stood his ground, showing a strength of character which would surely

have been an asset to the manager in those early, long-forgotten days of failure at Old Trafford.

Instead, legend has it that Ferguson greeted Strachan with the immortal words "Hello, ugly" when he came to Manchester in 1986 and the little Scotsman's face did not seem to fit into his old boss's big picture. Only 18 months later, Strachan was on his way to Leeds, who were languishing in the second division at the time. The feeling of rejection prompted what Strachan has called subsequently a "crisis of faith" in his own ability, "something that had plagued me through the years".

That glimpse of self-doubt is telling because it suggests that a far more complex and vulnerable character lies behind the effervescent, irrepressible, wise-cracking

**"Things have got to be done properly or not at all. He has no idea how to go at half pace"**

image conjured up by team-mates. Strachan may always be first with the one-liners, irritatingly so sometimes, and may play with the cockiness of a street urchin, but the manner should not be mistaken for arrogance, complacency or casualness.

During a period of despair at Aberdeen, when his relationship with Ferguson was at its lowest point, he was persuaded to sign for the German club, Cologne, until Ron Atkinson came to the rescue and took him to Manchester United. The retraction and the recommendations did little for the reputation of Strachan, one of the game's more honest citizens.

Yet his commitment to his profession has been unwavering to the point of fanaticism. He has been known to walk off in disgust if training is not taken seriously enough and, even now, when he

can display championship medals from both sides of the border, 50 Scottish international caps and a European Cup Winners' Cup medal from 1983, he has not forgotten his upbringing on the rougher side of Edinburgh.

"He is a bubbly character, full of humour and fun," Andy Roxburgh, the former Scotland coach, said. "But there's another side to Gordon too. In a footballing context, he cannot stand fools. People don't mess him around. Things have got to be done properly or not at all. He trains flat out, he does everything flat out. He has no idea how to go half pace." Nor does he presume that the game owes him a living. When once asked what he thought he might be doing at the age of 35, he replied: "Maybe I will be at Arbroath earning £30 a week and getting all the kippers I could eat. That was about all I could imagine."

Reality has provided so much more. A big house in the village of Scarcroft in Yorkshire, where he lives with his wife, Lesley, and his three children, a hefty salary, a respected place in the local community and a host of admirers in the wider world of football. Even the man himself admits it is all a "bit corny".

On the field, Strachan has never developed into the next Billy Bremner promised by a headline in the local paper during his days with Dundee in the mid-Seventies. With his red hair, inflammable temper and impish style, the comparison was inevitable but, except, perhaps, in his persistent ear-bashing of referees, Strachan has not shown the physical presence of his more combative predecessor at Elland Road.

Strachan has a winger's style and a warhorse's workrate. He paints in short, rapid, sweeping strokes, attends to detail, tidies and cleans. He scores his share of goals, but is more a provider. He will not shirk a tackle, but does not relish one either, unlike Bremner or his team-mate, Johnny Giles, in the Revie days, preferring to raid from his favoured right touchline. In the Scotland side, more often



than not, he had Graeme Souness to do his dirty work for him and the confines of his role perhaps limited his effectiveness at international level.

"He's not a physical player," Lee Chapman, a fellow member of the 1991-2 championship winning side, said. "He will shy away from certain players, but he's courageous in a different way. He's the one player who will always be looking to win a game." Chapman added, "When things aren't going

well, he's the one trying to do something about it and that has a great effect on the rest of the side." It has been preordained that, when age does finally control him, Strachan will become a manager, maybe the next manager of Leeds, if Howard Wilkinson gets the England job. He has already gained his coaching qualification in Scotland and, Roxburgh, for one, has no doubt he will make a

success of management as well. "He is the ideal manager-coach of the future. Very knowledgeable, good at dealing with other players and very passionate about the way the game is taught. He's got so much to offer." If the day ever comes, Strachan is 37 next month and shows no sign of slowing down. "I don't think of Gordon as 'old'," Roxburgh said. "To me, he is football's answer to Peter Pan."

## Foreign body can boost Chelsea's health

By ROB HUGHES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

IF CHELSEA are to turn their season around, it may take a foreign element that was there even before Glenn Hoddle arrived. For on Tuesday, two saves from Dmitri Kharine, one in each half, to deny Andy Cole, the prolific Newcastle United marksman, brought Chelsea their first win in 12 games.

Kharine is enough of a student of English to read Cole. He was quick enough, agile enough, brave enough to thwart him one against one. Each action showed Kharine's class as these two lean athletes, creatures of impulse, faced one another.

But it was Kharine, the Muscovite in a black tracksuit, who imposed his will. In the first half he pounced to cradle the ball at Cole's feet; in the second he reacted with astonishing reflexes to block the ball with his legs.

The goalkeeper knows he was fortunate. Seldom can Cole be diverted from his predatory path, and Kharine gambled and won to such effect that Newcastle failed to



**ROB HUGHES**  
Football Correspondent

score for the first time since August. But this goalkeeper counts his luck in more profound ways. Tuesday was the first time he was able to experience something Englishmen take for granted — his mother and father were able to applaud him from the stand.

They are over for Christmas and the new year. Their son's house is bigger than anything they know in Moscow, a big, inviting home of comfort for Dmitri, his wife, Lilia, and their son, Igor.

Cwyn Williams, the youth coach, has helped their acclimatisation. "Dmitri could survive by using the universal language of football, but the rest of the family has to integrate with society," he said.

After almost a year, with the English language flowing more

Kharine, and the boy ensclosed in a London school, the initial threshold has been crossed. There is no secret to the lure of the West. The salary Kharine draws at Chelsea is more than 400 times that he could command at CSKA, the former Red Army team in Moscow.

Kharine is an extraordinary young goalkeeper. That much we knew in 1992 when his agility, his timing and daring, kept out Dennis Bergkamp and Marco van Basten during the European championships. And he was ready to move there and then, a 23-year-old goalkeeper we thought the best in Russia since Lev Yashin more than 20 years ago, but a solitary, slightly bemused figure in a luxury hotel in Götterburg the night his agent tried to negotiate his transfer to the West.

Chelsea finally became the

takers, once the laborious process of obtaining a work permit was complete. His task at Chelsea was to see off the other contenders for the jersey. Dave Beasant and Kevin Hitchcock, and also get used to the differing demands of changing managers.

Some critics, inside and outside the club, considered him rash and unpredictable. Hardly surprising given the inner turmoil he must have experienced about the situation in Russia.

Other sportsmen who have made fortunes abroad have talked this week of the Russian mafia, the gangsters exploiting the breakdown in law and order that has come in the wake of the dissolution of the Soviet empire. Ice hockey players in America now reveal how their families left behind are abused and threatened so that the players can be made to part with some of their money.

Alexei Kasatonov, one of the hockey players, said: "It is extortion, we all try to resist it, but everyone knows that the police can do nothing."

So the pressures on Kharine are greater even than the

peripatetic goalkeepers of our league can guess. He comes to the West, to a volatile club like Chelsea, one whose manager, Hoddle, has used various systems and ten players in defensive positions in front of him in half a season.

Kharine obviously avoids the extremes experienced by former Soviet internationalists scattered around the Continent: Igor Belanov, the 1986 World Cup star, ended up in a German prison, accused with his wife of shoplifting; and



Kharine: lucky gambler

Alexandr Mostovoi had, to enter a marriage of convenience to acquire Portuguese citizenship to join Benfica.

But the entry to British football, for Kharine and for the likes of Andrei Kanchelkis at Manchester United, was paved four years ago this week by Sergei Balachka, a perceptive Ukrainian defender, who came to Ipswich Town.

Balachka, an elegant and intelligent man, was never used to the full in England. And yet he tried. He has stayed beyond his apparent failure in East Anglia, and is now converting with apparent success to the art of communication in a third language, Scottish. He is manager of Inverness Caledonian, a Highland club intending to go full time next season.

If Kharine's conversion is anything like as lasting, if Chelsea survive their minor struggles, then another breakdown in what once was the barrier in our cultures, is at hand. To young Russians a place in the spotlight, a credit card and freedom to ply their talents in the commercial world is just as attractive as it is to the rest of us.

## Celtic must show they can land knockout punch

By KEVIN MCCARRA

VICTORY in this afternoon's Old Firm game would enable Celtic to draw level with Rangers on points with a game in hand. After four faggy seasons, the very idea of being in title contention is liable to make the Celtic support giddy.

Rangers are troubled. Some think they ought to be arriving at Parkhead in a fleet of ambulances rather than the team bus. The injury list is as long as an electoral roll. Walter Smith, the manager, refuses to lament, for he knows that many people in Scottish football would only smirk at Rangers' difficulties. In buying so many big names the Ibrox club traded their right to sympathy long ago.

For this team, even depletion, has a plush look. Smith is scarcely reduced to fielding trialists and the side should be enhanced today by the return of Gough.

When this manager is reduced to rummaging for players he is still likely to come up with internationals. Against Hearts of Midlothian on Monday both of the side's Ukrainians, Mikhailichenko and Kuznetsov, were selected.

At a Rangers annual meeting a couple of years ago, Smith drily remarked that Mikhailichenko "showed great economy of movement." The midfielder player has often been reduced to complete immobility since, with the manager leaving him to sit on the bench. It appears that the player cannot be trusted with

the drudgery of marking and back-tracking.

Nonetheless, Mikhailichenko is extravagantly skilled. His involvement in the play is sparing, but he is always likely to deliver a left-footed pass which turns out to be the one memorable moment of the match. He constitutes a puzzle for the opposition, who must gauge how much attention to devote to a man who can appear uninterested.

The erratic form may exasperate Smith but the composition of the side intrigues bystanders. The re-emergence of Kuznetsov had not been expected. While playing for Russia in the late 1980s he was one of international football's great performers but the defender suffered a serious knee injury in only his second match for Rangers after signing in 1990.

His career in Scotland then evaporated. In some respects, whether physical or mental, his recovery has never been completed. When Rangers do use him nowadays it is as a central, midfield player, and from that position he delivered an ideal pass to make their second goal in the 2-2 draw against Hearts.

Lou Macari's side cannot be entirely confident about its own effectiveness. Celtic are hampered by the lack of a forceful striker. McGinlay, a midfield player, is the club's top scorer with nine goals. Celtic have lost just once in their past 14 league matches but have scored only 18 goals in that period.

Since being appointed as manager in October, Macari has restored hardiness but his team can almost appear reluctant to put the opposition away. With Rangers' guard down, Celtic must now prove they can land a punch. □ Dick Donald, the elder statesman of Scottish football and the visionary chairman of Aberdeen, died yesterday after a long illness. Donald, 82, turned Pittodrie into Britain's first all-seated and all-covered stadium and under him Aberdeen enjoyed their most successful period.



Kuznetsov: enigma

## United equipped to make indelible mark

They saw out 1993 at Old Trafford last night as the outstanding football team of the year. This morning, as they prepare to welcome Leeds United to the outstanding stadium in England, Manchester United stand poised to make an indelible mark on the record books of the national game.

When they achieved their century of points in a calendar year by blasting Oldham Athletic's defence to pieces on Wednesday, United merely confirmed what the rest of the country already knew — that the champions, at anything like full throttle, are untouchable.

United romped to 102 points in 43 league games in 1993, scoring 86 goals, and if the three teams promoted last season are ignored, managed 26 more points and 15 more goals than any of their rivals in the FA Carling Premiership in the same period. Blackburn Rovers (76 points from 42 games) and Tottenham Hotspur (71 goals in 43 games) finishing a distant second in each category. Only Arsenal conceded fewer goals.

United, though, are more than simply a statistician's delight. In Schmeichel they have a goalkeeper

**Keith Pike reflects on a year of exceptional achievement by a team that is threatening to rewrite the record books**

rated by some as the best in Europe and, with his powerful and precise throws, a player who can create as well as frustrate. Their back four, to a man, are comfortable in possession as well as remorseless in the challenge; their midfield bristles with competitiveness as well as invention; in attack, they can be breathtaking. In 19 Premiership matches during the next four months, United can convert their supremacy into football folklore.

Since Preston North End won the first two championships in 1889 and 1890, only 13 teams from seven clubs — including United themselves in 1956 and 1957 — have won successive titles, but should the Premiership trophy remain at Old Trafford, Eric Cantona will have secured championship medals in four consecutive seasons, after his triumphs with

Marseille (1991), Leeds (1992) and Manchester United last May.

United start 1994 with a 14-point lead over Blackburn, and should that gap be maintained until the end of the season it would easily surpass the record for the biggest winning margin, which stands at 10 points and is shared by Preston (1889), Sunderland (1893), Aston Villa (1897), Manchester United (1956) and Liverpool (1983).

It does not end there. With 57 points still available to them, United need another 35 to break the record for the number of points gained in a season in the top division, which stands at 90 and is shared by Everton (from 42 games in 1985) and Liverpool (from 40 in 1988). Fifteen wins would also eclipse Tottenham's record of 31 victories in a season. Whether United can become the first champions to score 100 goals since Tottenham in that same 1961 season is less likely. They are scoring at a rate of 2.13 per game, but to get another 51 in 19 matches would require an increase to 2.68.

It is, perhaps, the number of potential match-winners in their ranks that gives United their greatest

advantage. Hughes, their Wales striker, is unlikely to have recovered from a heel injury in time to face Leeds, but Giggs is more than capable of providing a foil for Cantona in attack. Sharpe and Ince have been scoring regularly, and the defenders, Irwin, Pallister and Bruce, have all scored when the regular sources have dried up.

The same cannot be said of their

rivals. Leeds, for example, have been reliant on Rod Wallace for goals, and the hamstring injury that prevents him playing today robs them of their main cutting edge. At Highbury, Everton Park and St James' Park, the dependency on one albeit outstanding individual is even more acute. Nobody will dispute that Ian Wright (78 goals in 110 games for Arsenal), Alan Shearer (41 in 44 for Blackburn) and Andy Cole (37 in 35 for Newcastle United) are lethal finishers, but when they are not firing, who is there to share the goalscoring burden?

History might suggest that United can still be caught: common sense says they will not, and yesterday Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, was unequivocal in his assessment of Alex Ferguson. "He must be the best manager in the business at present," Wilkinson said. "He will soon be in line to be recognised among the best in post-war football. In the past three years United have won the FA Cup, the European Cup-Winners' Cup and the League Cup, as well as finishing first and second in the league. That's a fair platform to work from."

TABLE OF THE RECORD									
Premiership clubs: present positions in brackets	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
1 Man Utd (1)	43	21	6	3	86	24	102		
2 Blackburn (2)	42	22	10	10	65	44	76		
3 Aston Villa (3)	42	20	10	12	51	40	70		
4 Leeds (4)	42	17	10	15	62	51	67		
5 QPR (5)	42	16	12	13	70	59	65		
6 Arsenal (6)	42	17	14	12	64	29	65		
7 Norwich (7)	41	16	11	12	64	28	63		
8 Sheffield Wed (10)	41	16	15	12	70	54	63		
9 Liverpool (9)	41	17	12	14	61	48	63		
10 Wrexham (11)	42	17	12	13	55	51	63		
11 Tottenham (11)	41	16	12	15	71	67	60		
12 Everton (12)	41	16	7	20	32	35	55		
13 Sheffield Utd (21)	44	12	13	19	54	61	48		
14 Coventry (13)	41	11	14	18	42	50	47		
15 Man City (17)	42	11	14	17	48	55	47		
16 Oldham (18)	42	11	12	20	74	47	45		
17 Ipswich (12)	42	11	13	18	40	47	45		
18 Southampton (20)	42	12	5	25	59	70	44		
19 Chelsea (19)	41	9	12	20	37	57	39		
20 Newcastle (16)	42	10	6	26	38	31	36		
21 West Ham (13)	42	8	6	28	29	30	30		
22 Sunderland (22)	42	8	12	22	20	30	30		

\* Promoted this season





Stephenson in the Long Room at Lord's, the home of Marylebone Cricket Club, of which he became assistant secretary in 1979 and secretary in 1987

## Stephenson retires after eventful innings

In the popular imagination, the secretary of Marylebone Cricket Club is a former colonel who is a little florid of face, a half-fellow-well-met keeper of the conscience of cricket. John Stephenson, who retired with a CBE yesterday after seven years' benevolent stewardship, is all that and more.

The CBE has been added to the OBE he received when he finished commanding the 5th Battalion of the Queen's Regiment in 1976. Last week a gatekeeper at Lord's — not the one who recently barred him from entry to a stand — let him in. He would be knighted. As Stephenson bade farewell to the staff yesterday in a lachrymose state, he had not the heart to keep the money. His bond with his staff was almost tangible.

He had become secretary in the bicentenary year of 1987 at a time of discord between MCC and the Test and County Cricket Board. Billy Griffiths, one of only 11 predecessors, had warned him against becoming assistant secretary in 1979; he had foreseen the strife between the two

powers resident at Lord's, one controlling the ground, the other putting on the best shows there.

No sooner had Stephenson become secretary than the marquee for the bicentenary ball blew down. The club's reports and accounts were not accepted by the members. The president, Colin Cowdrey, had to undergo a heart-bypass operation. All the while, Stephenson was having to combine his new and old jobs as well as act in the honorary and increasingly time-consuming role of secretary of the International Cricket Council (ICC).

His own morale, to say nothing of that of the club, was low. Matters improved — the bicentenary match was a great success — but other difficulties followed. The building of the Compton and Edrich stands ran well behind schedule. The members assembled to decide if women should be elected and whether they had any confidence in the England selectors after the exclusion of David Gower from the tour to India. And as secretary of the ICC, Stephenson

Ivo Tennant meets the outgoing secretary of MCC, whose seven-year tenure ended yesterday

became embroiled in the controversy over Pakistan's alleged ball-tampering in the Test series with England in 1992. By then, Stephenson was spending more time on the ICC's affairs than his paid job. The chairman of the Pakistan board of control telephoned him in an agitated state to say he had to issue a statement that Pakistan were not involved in ball-tampering. The telephone was then slammed down.

After Stephenson disclosed this recently, the ICC chairman and chief executive told him that the party line was to say nothing further. The hope was that the issue would die away. But what will happen when Pakistan tour England again? "Perhaps they won't," Stephenson said. "There is

nothing scheduled." He did not enjoy working for the ICC in the same way that Jack Bailey, his predecessor, had done. "Jack loved being secretary of the ICC. I liked it to start with but once you have penalties and referees, the job becomes nasty. The ball-tampering saga was awful," he said.

He is now free from such aggravation. As a member of MCC, which he has been since 1958, he will be able to attend another special meeting later this month, when Lord Griffiths will propose to members that a board of control should be set up in England, incorporating the Cricket Council and the National Cricket Association. Stephenson played his part in the working party initiated in the aftermath of the rumpus over the exclusion of Gower.

The future of MCC concerns him, yet he will stay away from Lord's for the foreseeable future. He believes it would not be fair to his successor, Roger Knight, to keep coming back. He

believes MCC, which ceded responsibility for the running of the game to the TCCB before his time, has too less power now than when he joined in 1979, and that its influence is greater. "People listen to us now."

At the age of 62, "the obligatory retirement age for MCC employees", he would like to contribute further to the game in a different capacity. He would be well suited to management of an England side on tour, for his strength lies in communication. "I probably learnt that dealing with soldiers in the army. I can't stand people who talk down to others."

As he prepared to leave Gubby Allen's old house for his cottage in Wiltshire, he remembered the interview he had in 1979 with Charles Palmer, then the president. Palmer could not think of anything to ask him other than whether he would like to paint the benches. Other candidates might have walked out. Instead, Stephenson forged a lasting friendship with Palmer, and an ever closer one with the private club with a public function.

## Australia bank on Warne

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN SYDNEY

THERE is the strong sense of an anniversary about the Test match which starts here tomorrow and it is the Australians who expect to do the celebrating. In the 12 months since Shane Warne became a celebrity rather than a curiosity, the focus of the game here has altered profoundly and in Sydney, more than anywhere, Australia can parade their new spin image.

Allan Border, the captain, is unequivocal. "We want it to run here and we are banking on our spinners to give the South Africans a real test," he said yesterday. With all due respect to the off breaks of Tim May, what Border really meant was that he expected this second Test to be another benefit match for the phenomenal Warne.

Until Warne bemused West Indies and won the last Test of 1992 at Melbourne, the second coming of leg spin, as a force outside the Asian subcontinent, was apparently the vision of fools and romantics. Recent history decreed it a futile exercise and the slightly pudgy young man with surfer's looks and an ear stud was widely expected to be driven, disillusioned, back to the beach.

Warne confounded everyone, including himself, by becoming not only cricketer's player of 1993 but its personality of the year, too. His 72 wickets in the calendar year have been exceeded by only four men in Test history, fast

bowlers all, but they tell only part of the tale. No slow bowler has ever won friends and influenced people as Warne is now doing.

There are good judges here, former players among them, willing to state he is already the best bowler, of any type, the world has seen. This remains fanciful, if only for the lack of longevity, but the unarguable fact of Warne's sensational year is that he is spawning young clones all around Australia. Gone are the days of trying to be Dennis Lillee or even Merv Hughes. Leg spin is the craze.

Earlier this week, during the country's national under-12 competition, the Sutherland team was bowled to victory by two infant leg spinners. One took six wickets, the other finished with match figures of 14 for 11. John McGinness is the name to note, perhaps for the turn of the century, by



Warne: celebrity

which Test Warne's deeds could belittle those regarded as the benchmarks of greatness.

So far, he has taken 84 Test wickets in a career which was only properly launched a year ago. He is 24 years old, developing constantly as a bowler and as a more subtle, ambitious character than the overweight youngster who came, utterly unprepared, to Test cricket in the Sydney match against India in January 1992.

Warne could play at least another ten years for Australia and, unless he suffers the spinner's yips or the world's batsmen suddenly discover a method of dismissing him, by how many wickets might he lead the all-time lists at the end of that time?

Warne has never been less than streetwise and he is now comfortable enough in his position to impose a few bluffs on opposition batsmen. In other words, quickly though his repertoire has grown, it may not be quite as extensive as he makes out. After confronting him in three recent Tests, Ken Rutherford, of New Zealand, called Warne "the most demanding spinner I have ever faced". But he added: "He is a mystery man with his different deliveries, including the mystery balls he tells you about but never bowls."

If they are shrewd, the South Africans will not assess Warne strictly on his output in

the first Test in Melbourne. He knows better than to show his hand in a dead game and there was a conspicuous absence of goobies during the last rites of five frustrating days.

Here he is expected to be special. A fortnight ago he bowled superbly on the Sydney pitch in a Sheffield Shield game and, all season, the traditional turn has been evident. There must be a cautionary note, for in his two previous Tests on the ground Warne has taken two for 266, but it remains likely that he will be the central figure if this game is to produce a result.

South Africa have no slow bowler in Warne's league, nor even in May's, the flat off spin of Pat Symcox providing little more than support to a seam attack which seems likely to be strengthened by the return from injury of Brian McMillan, the all-rounder, who will be taking a risk by playing on his damaged left knee, though not so much of a risk as Kepler Wessels will take by playing on his damaged right one.

Wessels knows that Border will not allow fielding substitutes for either of them — "he's not that silly" — but is prepared to gamble all to field his strongest side in what may well be the match which dictates this series and the one that follows in South Africa.

Australia (from): A Border (captain), M Taylor, M J Slater, D C Brunt, A Hogg, E Walsh, C J McDermott, S K Waite, T B A May, G D McGlashan, P R Reifer, D R Martyn. SOUTH AFRICA: to be announced.

## Sri Lanka call up three young players

THE Sri Lanka cricket selectors yesterday included three promising youngsters in a 16-member squad that was picked for a tour of India. The team, led by Arjuna Ranatunga, will play three Tests and three one-day internationals between January 13 to February 20.

Ravindra Pushpakumara, a 19-year-old fast bowler, Nisal Fernando, a batsman, and Anura Gunawardena, a batsman, are included for the first time. Pushpakumara and Fernando, who have played against touring sides, and

Gunawardena toured South Africa with the under-24 team. Romesh Kaluwitharne, the wicketkeeper in the recent matches against West Indies, the batsman, Asanka Gurusinha, and Ramesh Ratnayake have been left out.

SRI LANKA SQUAD: A Ranatunga (capt), P A de Silva, R S Mahanama, D Samarasekera, H P Tillekaran, S T Jayawardene, R S Kaluge, P B Deshanayake, M Muralitharan, G P Wickramaratne, D K Liyanage, S O Anura, A Gunawardena, R Pushpakumara, N Fernando, M S Aspell.

□ Daniel Marsh, the 20-year-old son of Rod Marsh, the former Australia Test

wicketkeeper, took his first wicket in the Sheffield Shield yesterday when he dismissed Michael Bevan of New South Wales in Adelaide, South Australia. It was a valuable wicket for Bevan had scored a quick century in his team's 351 for six at the close.

□ Geoff Boycott will not be standing in the latest round of Yorkshire committee elections. The 53-year-old former England opener, who lost his place earlier this year, will not oppose another former player, Bob Platt, in the West District.

## Bicknell eager to return to Test reckoning

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN DURBAN

HOWEVER reluctant they might be to confess it, cricketers are no different to others when it comes to making new year resolutions. There are 14 Englishmen in South Africa who feel that, given a decent break here or a rival's mishap there, 1994 could be their best yet.

No-one in the England A party awaits the new year so eagerly as Martin Bicknell, who makes his first first-class appearance of the tour here today against Natal. He turns 25 in a fortnight knowing he is no longer a likely young fast-medium bowler from Guildford. English cricket is battered with the corpses of bowlers once considered promising. It is time he fulfilled that promise.

When Bicknell calls 1993 "my best year ever", he has a point. He took 67 first-class wickets at 20 and forced himself into the Test side before a knee injury caused him to relinquish his place in August. England's victory in the last Test at the Oval, where Fraser, Malcolm and Wadkin bowled so well on his home ground, diminished further his hopes of touring the Caribbean this winter.

In effect, it was Bicknell's best half-year. As England have picked off eight successive victories in South Africa, he has been obliged to watch the proper cricket, and he admits to being "not the greatest watcher". A rib injury sustained in the nets before the one-day game in Zwarte, Port Elizabeth, put his place on the tour in doubt until specialist advice revealed the damage affected soft tissue rather than bone.

At a pinch Bicknell could have played in the last game at Cape Town. Instead he decided, along with Hugh Morris and Phil Neale, that the best course was a gradual one, building up his fitness in daily

nets until he was fully match fit. He takes his place in the team along with Martin McCague, who also missed that ten-wicket victory over Western Province.

England have rested Mark Iltott and Dominic Cork, who have played in each of the three four-day matches to date. They will decide whether to play both off spinners after inspecting a pitch which looked decidedly green yesterday. The square was under water earlier this week.

Phil Russell, the former Derbyshire coach, who left the county after their victory in the Benson and Hedges Cup final in July, is the groundsman at Kingsmead, another Test ground which has been extensively redeveloped in the past two years. He foresees a good batting pitch which will assist the seamers early on and turn later in the match.

The England side dined together last night, after which players were free to mark the dawning of a new year in any manner they chose.

"I haven't seen midnight yet on this tour, and I won't tonight," joked Morris, whose benefit year begins when he tosses up this morning with Malcolm Marshall. It's tough at the top.



Bicknell: fit again

### SPORT IN BRIEF

## Chen seeks to put record straight

DESMOND Douglas, the English national table tennis champion a record 11 times, and Chen Xinhua, the England No 1, may have a rare confrontation in the Cleveland International 5-Star Open starting tomorrow at Thornaby Pavilion (Richard Eaton writes). Among the seven countries competing is Japan, who are in the middle of a four-match series against England. Lena Timina, the leading woman player from Russia, is also taking part.

But the highlight would undoubtedly be a meeting between Douglas and Chen, the finest players to represent England in the past 30 years. The last time they met was a year ago in the same tournament when Douglas, despite his 37 years, unexpectedly beat the former China international and went on to win the title. Chen is the top seed and the women's favourite is Chire Koyama, of Japan.

## Carr comes of age

CYCLING: Zachery Carr, Britain's junior record-holder for ten miles, with a time of 19min 37sec, and joint winner of last year's national championship at the distance, could be the first winner of the 1994 time-trial season, which opens today near Wymondham, Norfolk, (Peter Bryan writes). The CC Breckland event marks the 18-year-old Norfolk rider's entry into the senior ranks.

Carr, who has been taking part in mountain bike races this winter, plans a change of racing programme this season and will concentrate on time-trials and track events with an eye to the 1996 Olympic Games.

## Snow fights back

REAL TENNIS: Julian Snow, the British No 1, made a fighting recovery on the second day of his world championship play-off against Robert Fahey, the world No 1 from Australia, yesterday (Sally Jones writes). Snow, who had looked down and out after losing all four sets on the first day, was on the brink of defeat when he dropped the opening set 6-1 on the second day of this best-of-13 set play-off in Hobart, Tasmania. But Snow improved his game enough to win to win the next three sets and leave the match poised 5-3 in Fahey's favour — and ensure an explosive finale tomorrow.

## Lartigue's lead grows

MOTOR RALLYING: Hubert Auriol, of France, driving a Citroën, won the fifth special stage in the Paris-Dakar rally yesterday, but the overall leader, Pierre Lartigue, finished less than a minute behind to increase his advantage by more than five minutes. The champion, Bruno Saby, who was in second place overnight, suffered a broken axle, helping Lartigue strengthen his grip on the race from 6min 03sec to 17min 56sec. Saby finished well behind the leaders. The motorbike stage was cancelled yesterday for security reasons, according to race officials.

## Priestley into semi-final

DARTS: Dennis Priestley, of Yorkshire, the top seed, beat Tom Kirby, of Ireland, 4-2 to reach the semi-final of the unofficial Skol world championship at Farnley, Essex, yesterday. In a match lasting 96 minutes, Priestley, who threw 180 seven times, could have won in straight sets had he not had difficulty in getting home with the final dart. Priestley, who won the official Embassy world championship in 1991, is convinced that this is the real world championship even though the Embassy event, which begins tomorrow, carries the title.

## Parmar causes upset

TENNIS: Arvind Parmar, the No 10 seed from Hitchin, upset Justin Layne, of Cambridge, the No 6 seed, 7-6, 6-3, to reach the quarter-finals of the Midland Bank national 16 and under championships at Telford today. Matthew Gorvin, of Bristol, the No 9 seed, also overturned the rankings with a 6-2, 6-2 dismissal of William Herbert, the No 8 seed. Steven Arney, of Derby, lost to Warren Sawyer, of Norfolk, after leading 4-1 in the opening set. Ben Haran, of Alton, who has dropped only five games in his three matches, overhauled Paul Delgado, of Maldenhead, 6-1, 6-1.

### FOR THE RECORD

#### BASKETBALL

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION (NBA) Charlotte 85, Chicago 85, Sacramento 87, Detroit 91, San Antonio 107, Indiana 85, Orlando 108, Miami 107, New York 102, Washington 84, Houston 110, Minnesota 104, Milwaukee 105, Cleveland 113, Denver 101, Golden State 96, Phoenix 119, Philadelphia 107, Boston 119, LA Clippers 111.

#### BOWLS

BLACKPOOL: Borough Singles Classic: Quarter-finals: R. Cohen (Scot) bt W. Wessels (Eng) 12-2, M. Gull (Wales) bt W. Booth (Wales) 21-9, W. Wood (Scot) bt G. Horton (Eng) 21-20, S. Hales (Wales) bt G. Horton (Eng) 21-19. Semi-finals: Cohen bt Gull 21-14; Hales bt Wood 21-14. Final: Hales bt Cohen 21-10. ATHLETIC TRIUMPH: Women's county championships: First round: Cumbria 114, Northumbria 103, Yorkshire 127, Durham 100, Lancashire 121, Nottinghamshire 108, Suffolk 115, Norfolk 117, Essex 109, Wiltshire 122, Leicestershire 118, Warwickshire 127, Surrey 116, Hampshire 120, Dorset 111, Sussex 129, Hampshire 124, Berkshire 106, Cornwall 123, Devon 89.

#### CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: First day: Brisbane: Queensland 245, Tasmania 4-2, Adelaide: New South Wales 246, South Australia 130. PANADURA: Sri Lanka: Second day of home England 148-10 (A. Hogg 24, M. Taylor 24, M. Slater 24, D. C. Brunt 24, A. Hogg 24, E. Walsh 24, C. J. McDermott 24, S. K. Waite 24, T. B. A. May 24, G. D. McGlashan 24, P. R. Reifer 24, D. R. Martyn 24).

#### CYCLING

COLOGNE: Six-day race: Overall positions after third day: 1, B. Riss and P. Betschler (Ger); 2, A. Kappes (Ger) and F. de Wilde (Bel) 134, at two laps; 3, U. Frauler (Swe) and C. Wolf (Ger) 182, at two laps; 4, P. Baccinetti (It) and A. Pflus (Ger) 112; 5, T. Rellermann and U. Messerschmidt (Ger) 57, at eight laps.

#### DARTS

PURPLET: Skol world championship (England under-21): Group B: T. Kirby (Ger) bt L. Butler (US) 3-1; Group C: R. Harrington (US) bt E. Bleson 3-1; Group D: J. Umberger (US) bt R. Burrows 3-0; P. Eason (US) bt Burrows 3-0; Group E: B. Anderson (US) bt J. Kelly (US) 3-0; Group F: P. Taylor (Scot) bt J. Hargreave (Scot) 3-1; Group G: S. Brown (US) bt K. Decker 3-1; Group H: A. Warner (US) bt R. Gardner 3-1.

#### FOOTBALL

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Ballymena 0, Carrick 2, O'Hagan 1, Coleraine 0.

#### HOCKEY

CONVENTRY: Divisional championships: Under-18s: East 1, South East 2, North East 0, South West 0, South West 0, Midlands 1, East 1, North West 1, South West 0, West 0, Final positions: 1, South East 1, 2, East 12, 3, Midlands 10, 4, South West 0, 5, West 0, 6, North West 0, 7, North East 1, Under-16s: South East 1, North East 1, East 2, West 3, North West 0, South East 1, Midlands 2, 14, West 10, 15, North West 7, 6, South East 4, 7, North East 1, 8, South East 1, 9, North West 1, 10, South East 1, 11, North West 1, 12, South East 1, 13, North West 1, 14, South East 1, 15, North West 1, 16, South East 1, 17, North West 1, 18, South East 1, 19, North West 1, 20, South East 1, 21, North West 1, 22, South East 1, 23, North West 1, 24, South East 1, 25, North West 1, 26, South East 1, 27, North West 1, 28, South East 1, 29, North West 1, 30, South East 1, 31, North West 1, 32, South East 1, 33, North West 1, 34, South East 1, 35, North West 1, 36, South East 1, 37, North West 1, 38, South 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# Armfield opposes part-time appointment

THE Football Association enters the new year in a serious dilemma in its search for a England team manager. No front-line candidate is without reservations among his credentials and a consequence is that the initial appointment may be for only two years.

Possible, but less likely, is that the position might be temporarily part-time, depending upon who the five-man committee of Sir Bert Millichip, Graham Kelly, Noel White, Ian Storr and Jimmy Armfield, in an advisory role, decides is the optimum choice. A decision may be reached next week. Either of the unconventional conditions which might operate are an indication that the committee is making a broader and more perceptive study of a critical situation than has been supposed. None of the committee, it must be remembered, has practical professional qualifications, Armfield apart.

Kelly indicated this week that an appointment only up until 1996 —

**David Miller on why the next England manager is unlikely to be granted an extended contract**

embracing the European championships for which England is host and an automatic qualifier — is under consideration, with "a fair measure of acceptance" among his colleagues. Since Armfield also acknowledges that of the four candidates known to be under consideration — Terry Venables, Gerry Francis, Kevin Keegan and Howard Wilkinson — the last two are unavailable full-time because of club contracts, there must be presumably consideration of the possibility of a part-time appointment for a coach/selector working in collaboration with a senior partner.

Critics will level the charge of

indecision against the FA: that a manager has no chance unless he is granted a minimum four-year period. Yet, as Kelly observes, other countries seldom give long-term contracts: if a manager pursues erroneous policies, as Graham Taylor did, it would not help if he were given eight years.

Any manager likely to make an impact will do so within two years, indeed less; and it can be an advantage not to be committed to a four-year contract if the choice proves unsuccessful. The FA, traditionally wishing to be dignified, does not easily terminate contracts prematurely, as it might well have done with Taylor after the failure in the 1992 European championship finals.

Therefore it has much to gain and little to lose from a two-year trial contract up to 1996, before the qualifying competition for the 1998 World Cup finals.

Armfield will not be recommending a part-time appointment. "It

has to be a full-time job, and that's what we are looking for," he says. But if the choice were Keegan or Wilkinson there would be no alternative, if embarrassing legal wrangles with Newcastle United or Leeds United, their respective employers, were to be avoided.

Keegan or Wilkinson could, arguably, work their way into the job in two years' time under the wing of someone such as Don Howe: the circumstances imposed on the national manager by domestic football necessarily makes the relationship with the international squad controversially part-time, and a senior partner could look after the logistics of choosing hotels and training camps.

The FA does not know what it is looking for. There is no perfect animal for the job, which is totally different from club management. Nobody can know, for instance, how any of the four supposed favourites would react to the public exposure and pressure inflicted

JIMMY Armfield, the Football Association's advisor, said yesterday that he had spoken to Trevor Francis, the Sheffield Wednesday manager, as part of the process of finding an England manager. "Trevor has a wealth of experience as a player and has played 50-odd times for England, plus he has played abroad," Armfield said. "I think we should draw on that type of experience."

Armfield refused to say whether Francis was among the candidates discussed recently by the FA's International Committee, and Francis said he preferred the contents of "a very useful discussion" to remain private. Francis is under contract at Hillsborough until 1996.

upon Bobby Robson and Taylor. My wish remains that the FA consults one or two successful foreign managers to gain a different perspective.

Armfield might seem an unlikely reference point: a by-no-means strident or successful manager, who has been out of the game for 15 years. Yet the FA sees his independence from the game as his strength, with his undemonstrative nature backed by lengthy international experience. This may enable him to give his four lay colleagues a

neutral line of contact with the professional game. Among other things, I understand this reveals a strong feeling among players for Venables as the preferred choice. In qualifications, Venables is in a class of his own: anyone who can handle the furies of the Spanish press as a foreign manager, of Barcelona should be able to cope with its English counterpart. The problem with Venables is that nobody knows what irregularities the Tottenham Hotspur enquiry might reveal, and, the FA can

hardly appoint an international manager who might suffer retrospective discipline for technical infringements.

Some players, apparently, have a mood for Francis or Keegan, both outstanding former international players, a qualification which many believe essential for the job. But has either the temperament to be desirable but it must be asked whether what the players would like is the best thing? It is an inescapable choice to be made of an unenviable job. As Kelly says: "We are trying to analyse not just the role of manager but the entire structure of the FA's technical development. A lot is in the melting pot but we must face the fact that the man who picks the team is in the firing line, and that will always be so. You can't have two bosses."

United's year, page 34

## Jenkins at stand-off as Wales reshuffle

By GERALD DAVIES

FOR the opening five nations' championship match against Scotland at Cardiff Arms Park on January 15, the Wales rugby union selectors yesterday announced nine changes, three of which are positional, from the team that lost embarrassingly in November to Canada.

Among the forwards, Ricky Evans, Phil Davies and Mark Perego, who has only played three games this season, replace Mike Griffiths, Tony Copey and Lyn Jones at prop, lock and flanker respectively.

In the backs, Nigel Walker, injured for the 26-24 defeat by Canada, comes in for Wayne Proctor on the wing and Nigel Davies replaces the injured Scott Gibbs at centre. Joining

no new caps, after all, "Emyr Lewis has more experience of playing as a flanker at this level than Quinell," Robert Norster, the Wales manager, said yesterday. "This is the blend we prefer." Swapping positions in this way is not ideal but at least the circumstances are not new to the Welsh.

However, if it is to be a long-term matter, the selectors will need to ensure that they gather more experience at club level. This was something that Jenkins was unwilling to do at Pontypridd, so that the chances were that sooner or later, unable to garner the feel of midfield play at his club, the swapping had to stop at national level.

He is stamping his mark in that position at the moment and this was something it was impossible to ignore," Norster said. He is undoubtedly the moving spirit at Pontypridd, having collected 219 points in the Heineken League.

This is as good a team as can be selected. If opinion diverges, it is only because at a time when success is extraordinarily hard to come by, when each game is a test of nerve as much as skill, and nothing is settled, there are as many different options as there are people who will proffer an opinion. Success, on the other hand, breeds a confident consensus and selection becomes easier. But Wales are a long way off from that condition.

Where there is a growing agreement, however, is that Wales need to break from the pattern of play which is shackled somewhere around the perimeter of the scrum. It is not Wales's natural game, the chorus sings. There is much in this. It is in this respect, and the failure against Canada in particular, that much criticism has been directed at Alan Davies, the coach, and Iwan Evans, the captain.

But as Davies correctly pointed out yesterday, it is the experienced players in critical positions who must determine for themselves the run of play. This team must prove that it can shift its tactics according to the swing of the game.

He expects the Scots, who were beaten heavily by New Zealand in November and who hold their trial on Monday, to prove difficult opposition. "It's a disaster to play against a team that has just been hammered; they have got so many things to prove," Davies said. "The best thing we had last year was to play a five-year absence last night, the Giants swept aside the flimsy challenge of Solna Vikings, of Sweden, the seemingly perennial visitors to this tournament, now in its seventh year."

The Ireland selectors are not expected to mirror Wales in making wholesale changes to their five nations' championship side, but they will pay particular attention to the back five forwards in the trial at Lansdowne Road tomorrow before naming the XV to play France in Paris on January 15.

### WALES TEAM

A Clement (Swansea); I Evans (Llanelli, captain); M Hall (Cardiff); N Davies (Llanelli); N Walker (Cardiff); N Jenkins (Pontypridd); R Morris (Llanelli); R Evans (Llanelli); G Jenkins (Swansea); J Davies (Neath); P Davies (Llanelli); G Llewellyn (Neath); E Lewis (Llanelli); S Quinell (Llanelli); M Perego (Llanelli).

Replacements: R Jones (Swansea); M Rayer (Cardiff); A Llewellyn (Llanelli); H Taylor (Cardiff); H Williams-Jones (Llanelli); A Copey (Llanelli).

Davies in midfield is Mike Hall, who returns for his 20th cap now the decision has been made to select Neil Jenkins not at centre but in his club position at stand-off half, instead of Adrian Davies.

The other positional change in the forwards is less explicable. Emyr Lewis, who at one stage expressed a wish to be considered as No.8, the position he occupied against France last season, now returns to the flank, with the 21-year-old Scott Quinell, who played against Canada on the side of the scrum, taking over at No.8.

Clearly, Quinell is seen to possess the versatile talents of his father, Derek, who in the Seventies reversed roles in similar fashion, playing on the flank against New Zealand for the British Lions and at No.8 for the Barbarians in the famous 1973 match against the same opposition. It was at No.8 his son played with such distinction for the Barbarians in the equivalent match last month.

Perhaps there is method in the selection, which features



Jenkins: club position

Ireland change, page 33



Elena Ovcharova, of BCSS, scores despite determined resistance from Valna Baranovic, of Solna

## Giants cut Vikings down to size

By NICHOLAS HARLING

MANCHESTER Giants revealed at Crystal Palace last night why they are leading the Bundesliga League with easily the best scoring record in the land. On their return to the World Invitation Club basketball tournament after a five-year absence last night, the Giants swept aside the flimsy challenge of Solna Vikings, of Sweden, the seemingly perennial visitors to this tournament, now in its seventh year.

Giants, who are averaging 106 points a game in domestic competitions, bettered that 117-83 victory that earned them a place against Worthing Bears in the all-English semi-final on Sunday. It took

Chris Fite only eight seconds to demonstrate why Manchester are such high scorers. With a contemptuous three-pointer, the 6ft 8in American opened his team's account, after which there was no stopping the English club.

They had sunk the first 11 points of the game before Rachid Kermoury responded with his team's first basket, a three-pointer, after Jay Anderson, the Solna coach, called for his team's first time-out after barely 90 seconds.

With Kevin St Kitts replying in similar fashion with his second three-pointer of the game, the Giants promptly regained the initiative, with Joe Hillman, their other American, penetrating at will from the back court. Solna

were missing their Sweden international forward, Patrick Bjornestig, who stayed on the bench with a back injury.

Until midway through the opening half, they had contained Gordon but the England international was still proving invaluable, along with Fite.

The fact that the Giants could bring on such players as the 6ft 10in Craven, Sean McKie, who is about 18 inches shorter, and Kurt Samuels, emphasised their strength on the bench.

Enjoying no such luxury, Solna were not helped by the normally free-scoring Henrik Everts, taking nine minutes to score his only basket of the first half.

The outcome was a formal-

ty by the interval when Manchester's lead was 64-41. Gordon responded with an imperious dunk which was the signal for Anderson to concede the game by introducing his bench players.

The Solna women's team had slightly more luck than their men. They lead the women's round-robin tournament, having played a game more than the Belgian team, BCSS Namur, which beat them 68-58 yesterday morning. Making up for that defeat, Solna gained a narrow 75-73 win over the unbeaten English second division leaders, London Heat.

RESULTS: First round: Men: Manchester 117, Solna (Sweden) 83. Second Round: Women: BC, London Towers 62, Warrington 58, Namur (Belgium) 68, Solna 75, London Heat 72.

## Hoddle and Fry expect hostile visits to old clubs

By KEITH PIKE

IT IS hard to imagine two more contrasting figures in football management — than Glenn Hoddle and Barry Fry. Physically, they could be Little and Large. In post-match press conferences, Hoddle often plays 'Laurel' to Fry's 'Hardy'. But they share a belief in the way the game should be played, and today they may be united by a sense of foreboding.

Both will have to endure the wrath of those who once feted them: Hoddle, as he returns to the County Ground in Swindon on board the Chelsea team bus, Fry as he rolls back into Roots 'Hall' with Birmingham City, three weeks after leaving Southend United. 'Tin hats and thick skins may be the order of the day.'

Hoddle, who left Swindon in May a few days after a momentous play-off final victory over Leicester helped them secure a place in the FA Carling Premiership, was typically composed yesterday. Both Chelsea and Swindon are in relegation positions in at present.

"I'm proud of what I achieved at Swindon," Hoddle said. "I served an apprenticeship and we performed a miracle by taking them up. Of course, it was the first match I looked for when

the fixtures came out, and although I don't know how they will react to me, I will go there with my head held high."

Hoddle said he and John Gossman, his former assistant and now Swindon's manager, will be dining together before the game. "I believe both clubs can turn the corner but I hope it will start with Chelsea today and Swindon on Monday," he said. "The new year gives us the chance of a fresh start."

Fry, whose more recent departure was even more acrimonious, anticipates a hostile reception but said: "I hope the off-the-field aggro doesn't spill over onto the pitch." He took time off from his preparations yesterday to sign Roger Willis, the striker who played under him at Barnet, from Watford, for £150,000.

The new year brought a new manager for Doncaster Rovers. Tony Cunningham, the player-coach, has been placed in temporary charge after Steve Beaglehole was relieved of his duties yesterday by the third division club. His two years in charge ended after a run of five successive defeats, but he may stay on in another capacity after an offer from the club.

Charline's mission, page 34

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## CORAL REEF

Diving to conserve the marine life

In the swim in Belize, page 3



## TASTE OF VENICE

Real food from Rialto market

John Brunton, page 5



## NIGHTCLUB BUS

All aboard the party express

Tim Marsh, page 6

THE HOUSES  
THAT LUTYENS  
BUILT  
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# WEEKEND

# 3

THE TIMES SATURDAY JANUARY 1 1994

## Just the weather for ice-cream

When the going gets cold, the cold eat ice-cream... particularly in the former

communist countries, says Anne McElvoy

The temperature was -15C in Ulyanovsk (Lenin's birthplace) and a wind of pure steel blew across the frozen Volga river.

My Russian travelling companion was undaunted. "Let's go for an ice-cream," she said. "Whatever else there isn't in the provinces, there's always that." On the snow-bound main street, the only cafe was closed. But Ulyanovsk's residents, underdressed in their pursuit of the delicacy, stood around a makeshift stall in their fur hats and winter boots devouring lemon *Morozhenno*. "When the mouth is cold, the feet feel warmer," my friend explained. This is not quite the way nutritionists would put it, although they agree that ice-cream, with its high fat content, is an excellent way of giving your body's insulation system a quick boost. As *The Times* doctor, Tom Stuttaford, explains: "It's rather like the Inuit eating blubber. Ice-cream is high in fat, which can quickly boost body temperature. And the sugar gives an added boost."

Even in the cities of northern Siberia, currently enduring -48C, people queue up for it all year round. Churchill, visiting Russia in the winter of 1942, spotted a Kremlin guard clutching a large cone. He is said to have remarked that a nation which ate ice-cream in the depths of the Moscow winter could not be defeated. There is not much that I miss about communism, but on this particular front of the Cold War, the East was the outright victor. I used to think that they doggedly kept up supplies because the rulers loved those posters of three-year-olds on their daddy's shoulders at Mayday demonstrations, brandishing their cones as innocent symbols of future ideological triumph. A Central Committee agricultural functionary in East Berlin had a more practical explanation. "Milk overproduction," he said regretfully. "Early mistakes in collective-farm planning have led to a glut and it's the cheapest way to use it up."

His theory was borne out by East German menus. In the provinces, restaurant meals were triumphs of will over ingredients, so the dinner menu reliably consisted of a choice of dishwater *Soljanka* soup or gristly pork. But the desserts provided mouth-watering compensation. Even in the remotest hamlet there was always ice-cream with chocolate and rum sauce, ice-cream with Polish cherry liqueur, ice-cream with Cuban curacao, ice-cream with Bulgarian fruits, and, of course, lashings of unhealthy whipped cream on top. The Hungarians, who always had enough *joie de vivre* to make the best of socialism's bad job, managed to improve on this with their *palatschinken* — pancakes smothered in ice-cream and fruit sauce. They were the leaders in the East's consumption table, dispatching three litres a person a year, with Poland a full litre behind.

Communism and ice-cream were inseparable. It was the officially permitted luxury of countries which otherwise spurned self-indulgence. Easy and cheap to produce en masse, industrial production of the stuff began in the

Soviet Union in 1932, at the height of Stalin's brute power — Uncle Joe's gift to the nation's obedient children of all ages.

The story goes that Russia has Stalin's trade minister, Anastas Mikolain, to thank for its ice-cream. On a trip to America to buy machine patents for the industrialisation programme, the stern Bolshevik was so impressed by the enemy's ice-cream that he made an impulse buy of the patent for mass ice-cream production and passed on the American recipe to factories at home, using his subsequent jobs as minister of supplies and minister of food to ensure that they stuck to the rules. By 1990, 132 million litres were consumed yearly in the USSR.

In a country where choice was denigrated as a bourgeois diversion, the sheer variety of ice-cream was astonishing. The state-ordained prices barely changed throughout the entire Soviet period. Children ate vanilla-flavoured, ice-cream-filled pastry tarts for five kopeks (a few pence). There was *Scherbet*, bright pink water-ice flavoured with cranberry juice. For 13 kopeks you could splash out on chocolate flavour with water. But the favourite was "for 19" with a yellow or pink confectionary rose on top, the first romantic gift for millions of Soviet teenagers on first dates from Vladivostok to Kaliningrad. Nowadays Russian ice-cream is deemed old-fashioned by the country's *novorishi*, who prefer

to spend 1,000 roubles on imported ice-cream. Baskin Robbins has a profitable shop on the prestigious Kutuzovskiy Prospekt. Haagen Dazs fills the freezers of the hard-currency shops.

But for anyone who lived in the communist world, the taste of old-fashioned ice-cream carries the bittersweet melancholy of small enjoyments in a joyless world. Somewhere in an old photo album, I have a picture of myself in Havana, 1988, clutching three ice-cream cones with an expression of pure joy on my face that was partly the result of finding anything at all to eat in Cuba without resorting to dollar hotels, but also because I have never tasted any ice-cream as delicious as that bombastic creamy delight. It will remain in my memory long after that stranded island of communism has succumbed to Haagen Dazs.

One day in Prague in 1990, something terrible happened. I joined an ice-cream queue only to be presented with three minute blobs of a sweet, flavourless mush which purported to hail from Italy and cost ten times the usual price. Home-produced ices were out of fashion, the vendor explained. Freed from the restriction of state planning, everyone wanted foreign ice-cream. Soon afterwards, the first East German restaurants began to offer tiramisu and sorbets instead of their old sundaes, and they sold soggy pre-packed cones in the cinemas. Unification was upon us: the old order had melted away.

Additional reporting by Galina Mikulina

Gerald Kaufman, MP, an ice-cream addict of long standing, has scoured the world to satisfy his craving

Spare me your cathedrals, your castles, your pyramids. When I travel abroad, my objective is clear and simple. Where can I get the best ice-cream?

Arriving at my destination, in whatever continent or hemisphere, I head straight for the most alluring ice-cream parlour I can track down. I have gorged myself on cone and tub in every climate. At -10C, I have joined Muscovites (who, like all Russians, take their ice-cream seriously, rejecting the pathetic English fallacy that this delicacy is only a summertime solace) slurping their way along the trendy Arbat.

In typhoon-swept Kyoto I have sheltered from rather emphatic breezes with the added comfort of green-tea flavoured ice-cream. I have sung in the rain in Hollywood, buoyed up with chocolate-almond frozen yoghurt (which is simply ice-cream disguised to suit health freaks) in a cosy booth not too far along Sunset Boulevard from the location where Joe Gillis got his come-uppance from Norma Desmond. From Venice, Italy, to Venice, California, I have improved the shining hour of warm sunlight with an indigenous double-dip.

How do I find my ideal ice-cream, crammed with cream and high in cholesterol-rich butter-fat? In the United States I never travel without my personal bible, a paperback with the deliciously enticing title of *The Very Best Ice-Cream and Where to Find It*. I picked up (if necessary, I would have stolen) a copy in a bookshop in Bennington, Vermont, for the ludicrously low price of £2.95.

Just scanning the index is enough to make me salivate uncontrollably. As for the book's contents, take just one example. Sweet Creams Unlimited, Ridgefield, Connecticut, whose premier attraction is "travelling Mississippi Mud Pie, featuring coffee. Kahloa ice-cream topped with whipped cream

and fudge sauce". This book paid for itself by directing me to the richest vanilla ice-cream I have ever tasted anywhere, at Snelgroves, Salt Lake City.

In other countries I scour the more generalised guidebooks to see if ice-cream gets a mention. In Italy, the invaluable, pocket-diary-shaped American Express guides are especially rewarding. The Rome edition would be cheap at ten times the price for having directed me to Gelateria della Palma, an Ali Baba's cave of ice-cream offering 100 different flavours.

In Florence — which can make a justified claim to be the world's ice-cream capital, with parlours at almost every corner — the place to go is Vivoli, whose incredibly excellent ice-cream justifies the arrogance, not to say outright contempt, with which clients are treated. The humiliation is justified by the marvellous quality of the flavours (the melon is a must).

On the other side of the world, in Adelaide, Australia, I was pointed in the direction of that elegant city's most reliable Italian *gelato* (some of the inferior brands on offer being little more than flavoured ice) by the *Advertiser Good Food Guide*. On the Sunday morning when I called to sample its flavours, Al Fresco in Rundle Street was crowded to the rafters, unlike the almost deserted rival establishment next door.

South Australia's connoisseurs were voting with their stomachs. The Adelaide *gelato* provides an alternative to the numerous Australian parlours stocking Scandinavian — or pseudo-Scandinavian — ice-cream. Melbourne and Sydney contain establishments called Norgen Vaaz, which I suspect to be a rip-off of the northern hemisphere's Haagen Dazs (itself a totally invented word which has no meaning in any Norse, or indeed any other, language). Of particularly superior quality is a brand available in Adelaide and its sea-side neighbour, Glenelg, embellished with the name of Royal Copenhagen ice-cream.

Continued on page 4



## Welcoming the wolf to these shores again

Jim Crumley backs the return of wolves to the Highlands

Scotland has been wolfless now for 250 years. There are almost as many accounts of the slaying of the last wolf as there are caves and hovels and mansions where Bonnie Prince Charlie allegedly slept.

The most quoted is a paragraph by a stalker called Macqueen in the north-east Highlands in 1743, supposedly after two children had been killed, a claim almost as preposterous as Macqueen's account.

"As I came through the sloch by east the hill there, I foregathered wi' the beast. My long dog there turned him. I buckled wi' him, and dirked him, and syne whuddled his craig, and brought awa his countenance for fear he should come alive again, for they are precarious creatures."

So the child-slayer wolf was suddenly grown docile enough to permit the stalker to wrestle it,

dirk it, cut its throat and behead it. But such is the all too believable unremittingness at the wolf's extermination that man cannot quite forgive himself.

For the last 40 or so of our 250 wolfless years, naturalists have pricked that conscience into consideration of reintroducing wolves. The idea has grown so respectable that the Government's own Scottish Natural Heritage has now given it tentative voice.

The prospect appeals hill farmers and crofters, although the most likely setting for an initial experiment is the Hebridean island of Rum which SNH owns, and where it and its predecessor (the Nature Conservancy Council) have pursued a long-term study of the Highland wolf's favourite prey, the red deer.



It is a promising proposition for nature. There is widespread agreement now that the Highlands hold far too many deer, and in a confined island environment with a good mix of Highland habitats — mountain, moor, wood, shore — it would be a simple matter to study the impact of a controlled number of wolves as a natural predator on the deer herd. But Rum should be a beginning.

not an end in itself. I can see no reason other than the squeamishness of stock owners to let the wolf rediscover its own level on the mainland. There has been enough enlightening research now to overturn the kind of thoughtlessness which cast the wolf in the role of yellow-eyed slaving villain in a thousand fairytales and cartoons. All we need is the confidence to permit real wolves to behave naturally, and we have nothing to fear.

It would be a quantum leap of thought. We have learnt to live without wolves. Somehow in this moribund and bureaucratically top-heavy era of conservation, room must be made for wildness, a gesture towards nature purely for its own sake, serving only the cause of wildness. The wolf's

resurrection would be such a gesture.

The American conservationist Aldo Leopold wrote memorably of wolves in his matchless book, *A Sand County Almanac*, hearing in the infamous howl "an outburst of wild defiant sorrow, and of contempt for all the adversities of the world."

"Every living thing... pays heed to that call. To the deer it is a reminder of the way of all flesh, to the pine a forecast of midnight scuffles and a blood upon the snow, to the coyote a promise of gleanings to come, to the crowman a threat of red ink at the bank, to the hunter a challenge of fang against bullet. Yet behind these obvious and immediate hopes and fears there lies a deeper meaning, known only to the mountain itself. Only the mountain has lived long enough to listen objectively to the howl of the wolf."



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# California in the Blackpool winter

**Sybaritic  
Susan MacDonald  
goes to Lancashire  
for a lazy weekend  
only to be lured  
into activity**

I checked into the Village Hotel in Blackpool just after lunch on a rainy, blustery Saturday, and my one craving was for a snooze on the bed, draped in the Saturday papers. But the large, fluffy towel-wraps awaiting my partner and me in our room tempted me to the hotel's indoor swimming pool.

On the way, I passed four squash courts, a large snooker room, an aerobics studio, an exercise gym and a tanning, massage and beauty therapy room. Further on, arrows pointed to the golf course, driving range and tennis courts.

For me, an ideal weekend break has always conjured up a vision of old country hotels, delicious food, log fires and voluptuous armchairs: a haven of indulgence and idleness. But the concept of offering well-upholstered idleness and top-quality activity under one roof is fast gaining in popularity and I was beginning to see why.

The 21-metre swimming pool lay in a large all-white complex with ceiling-high windows. Lounging beds and large sub-tropical plants dotted the area. The image was pure California, but then so were the water and air temperatures. Alongside the pool were a sauna, a steam room and a "sunshower" room for an all-over fake tan.

Tentatively I swam a bit, then became bolder and lay first in the dry heat of the sauna, then in the wet heat of the steam room. By now the outside winter world had slipped away. I swam a bit more

and then aimed for the ultimate treat: submerging myself in the hot bubbly water of the whirlpool spa and letting the underwater jets massage the last of the tension away. Then I went for a lie-down and a chance to read the papers, while my partner tried out the gym, having his blood pressure and pulse checked before being allowed to exercise on the state-of-the-art equipment.

Others in the holiday trade may be suffering, but since 1987 Village Leisure Hotels have built six hotels in the north of England, and are now creeping south with two more planned in the Midlands. This was their newest hotel on the outskirts of Blackpool, five minutes from the M6 with easy access to the Lake District and Yorkshire moors. The atmosphere was warm and relaxed, the staff friendly and professional. Many guests said they stayed there for the food and comfort and did not use the leisure facilities, but enjoyed wandering

along to the viewing gallery to watch people swimming or playing squash, between relaxing in the hotel's library, coffee area, or in one of the bars. I was irritated by the lack of portage—trolleys on each floor would have eliminated lugging bags along corridors.

René Brunet, the hotel manager, is the man who turned The Belfry into the successful Midlands leisure complex which has attracted the Ryder Cup to its golf course. A Frenchman and a trained cook, he makes delicious, well-served food a priority. Andrew Simpson, who was executive chef at The Belfry, is now with him at the Village. Our dinner in the grill room was excellent, the high point being the Châteaubriand.

As it was the last weekend of the illuminations and I had never been to Blackpool, after dinner we went to join the queue of cars inching their way along the seafront to gaze at the bright lights.

One family in the hotel told me afterwards that they were thrilled the Village now existed, as from now on their obligatory annual pilgrimage to Blackpool would be bearable.

Sunday morning usually means staying in bed, but I was drawn again to a quick laze in the pool and a lounge in the steam room, before confronting a buffet breakfast with a wondrous selection of cereals, yoghurts, salami, cheese, fruit juices—and an excellent, freshly fried breakfast.



The swimming pool complex at the Village Hotel and Leisure Club in Blackpool boasts a whirlpool spa as well as a steam room

Afterwards my partner retired to lounge in the heat of the pool area with the Sunday papers, and I went to look at the hotel's 18-hole par-72 golf course, designed to championship standard by Peter Alliss and Clive Clark, which opens this spring. Alongside there is a practice putting green, a 20-bay driving range and three all-weather tennis courts.

The assistant manager told me she would like to add riding stables as well. The hotel is built on reclaimed land next to a bird sanctuary, and its design has incorporated 11 acres of lakes and retained the full use of existing public footpaths.

The Village is fully equipped for business conferences, large and

small, as the idea of people doing business and relaxing together becomes increasingly popular. Its health and fitness facilities are also open as a club for local people. Sporty I am not, but I became seduced by the thought of having a sauna, massage or game of squash on tap whenever I came to a natural pause in my book. I came

away feeling absolutely refreshed and relaxed.

● Village Hotel and Leisure Club, East Park Drive, Blackpool F3 3LL (0253 338869). Normal rates (special weekend offers often available): weekend B&B £59.50 per person; short-break dinner with B&B £55 per person; weekend golf break dinner with B&B £75 per person. Reduced rates for children.

## Getting there



□ Mary Ann Sieghart travelled courtesy of Royal Air Maroc via Casablanca, to Marrakesh: a flight time of four hours. Padlock your bags: many were open and had been rifled through when they arrived on the carousel. The official return fare is about £230, depending on the time of year.

□ La Roseraie is just over an hour's drive south from Marrakesh. Rooms vary from fairly basic to very comfortable, and are dotted around the gardens. April and May are the best months for the roses. Food is not bad, service is excellent. The hotel costs £45 per person per night half-board, or about £560 for seven nights, including flight. Riding is extra: about £100 per person for two days and a night.

□ The holiday was organised by CLM (Morocco Made to Measure) (071-235 0123).



Riding through the sparse villages of the High Atlas foothills, such as Ouirgane (above), Mary Ann Sieghart and her husband were a rare enough sight to cause excitement

the rest than the fare. Another hour and a half took us to the village where we were to stay. Our host showed us proudly round the collection of little houses that clung to the hillside, a few hundred feet above the river. In his *djellaba*, the full-length coat with a pointed hood that all the men wear here, he looked like a magician. We drank mint tea, almost soupy with sugar, and ate *tajine*, a slow-cooked stew, with our hands; all from the same clay pot.

The courtesy and warmth of his welcome easily made up for the running water, electricity and heating that we had left in the valley below.

A night in a very narrow and rudimentary bed left me surprisingly refreshed, though, inevitably, bedbug-bitten. After more unheavened bread with a scot jam and several cups of very sweet and very strong coffee, we set off for the second day's ride, down into the plain and then back over the mountains to La Roseraie.

In the morning we passed endless donkeys pulling hand-made wooden ploughs, with a child or man walking behind: a vision unchanged for thousands of years. In the villages, there was little sign of Western influence: no radios or television, no packaging or cans. Only the children's clothes bore traces of internationalism. We cannot have been the first foreigners to ride through their lives, but we were rare enough to cause excitement.

The trip back through the mountains was sensational. Climbing up and up a narrow path carved into the steep hillside, we found ourselves in the most majestic gorge, with a sheer drop of perhaps 1,000ft down from the path to a cascading river, and another 500ft or so of mountainside above us. I thanked God that he had given me a good head for heights, and my horse a sure set of feet.

Back at La Roseraie, after a fairly hair-raising fording of the icy river, we encountered another couple who had just arrived for the night and had to leave the next morning for Marrakesh. Like all the others, they took one look at the setting and regretted their haste. And again we felt smug that we had forsaken our usual hectic travelling schedule to stay for a whole week in this one gorgeous place.

La *calme*, after all, has to be savoured.

## Riding high over the lonesome mountains

**An hour's drive from Marrakesh,  
Mary Ann Sieghart saddles up to  
explore la calme of the High Atlas**

W as somebody trying to tell me something, I wondered, when on my first day at La Roseraie with my husband, Dai, my watch stopped, my trusty short-wave radio failed to work, and the hotel's only telephone was clearly not going to connect us with Marrakesh, let alone England? La *calme* is La Roseraie's speciality. I was clearly being urged by some higher power to observe it.

So I did. Soon we learnt to tell the time by the weather: if the sky was cloudless, it must still be morning; if the clouds were hovering over the mountains, it was time for lunch; and by the time the rainclouds gathered, it was most definitely time to go inside and have a drink. Each time I worried about the children at home. I told myself that if anything had gone wrong, word could have been sent from Marrakesh. And as for the news, does it really matter what John Major is doing when you can lie by a pool surrounded by rose gardens and babbling streams in the foothills of the High Atlas mountains?

Around La Roseraie, the hills cluster in those ridiculously regular overlapping triangles that you probably used to draw as a child. Above them are the snow-capped mountains of the High Atlas, crossable only via the vertiginous Tizi-n-Test pass, of which travellers speak in strangled tones when they arrive at La Roseraie in time for a bolstering evening drink. Many of the hairpin bends are unprotected, and Moroccan drivers relish playing chicken with

cars coming the other way. But our travel was to be on horseback, with barely the sight of a road.

We had come to La Roseraie for *la calme*, but also to explore the High Atlas mountains on the hotel's half-Arab, half-Berber steeds. The first day, we took a gentle ride around the valley, through olive and eucalyptus groves, peeping over the pink clay walls that surround the Berber houses, fording streams and

climbing high enough to look down on Ouirgane, the village on whose edge La Roseraie nestles.

The next day, we set out on foot to see if we could walk as far as the snowline. When we passed through the last village, surrounded by giggling little girls herding their sheep, and found our first patch of snow, it was curiously granular, like a collection of tiny hailstones.

All this was preparation for a two-day riding expedition, with a night in a Berber village way up in the mountains. With just a small saddlebag each, my husband and I set off after breakfast with our guide, Abu, and his dog.

S kirting the big river, swollen from unexpected and much-welcomed autumn rain, we rode through landscape reminiscent of Arizona: small, reddish hills, pleated like the folds of a sleeve in a Renaissance portrait, with gullies and outcrops and not a sound bar the soft phut of our horses' hooves on the path. The colours were straight out of *Cézanne*: red and green, pink and green, gold and green. For several hours we saw nobody.

Along a dried-up river bed we rode, the horses picking their way through boulders glistening below us in tridescent colours. Then we climbed an unrelenting zig-zag path for what must have been at



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# Divers to the rescue of the coral reef

In Central America, William Gray joins a group of volunteers engaged in the fight to save the Belize Barrier Reef — and having a holiday too

The disadvantage of smiling while deep sea diving is that water seeps through the sides of your breathing mouthpiece, but I couldn't stop. Two giant eagle rays had joined us 33 yards below the surface of the Caribbean, and with slow graceful wingbeats they began somersaulting around like a pair of enormous marine bats. My diving companion was equally enchanted, sending exclamations of wonder bubbling through the water.

As research for my book on coral reefs and islands, I had joined a group of divers, all volunteers, on a three-month expedition for Coral Cay Conservation, an independent non-profit-making organisation working on the conservation of the Belize Barrier Reef. The reef is the second largest in the world, stretching 135 miles along the coast of Belize in Central America. This colossal limestone sculpture, shaped over thousands of years by reef-building corals, is home to more than 200 species of fish and a vast array of plants and animals.

Throughout time coral reefs have provided a barrier against the erosion of coastlines, sequestered the "greenhouse effect" gas, carbon dioxide, from the atmosphere, helped to filter dirty water, provided a vital source of food for both humans and sea life and, more recently, yielded medicines and potential cancer cures. Now they are under immediate threat. Ninety per cent of reefs worldwide have already been seriously damaged. The tiny, fragile polyps that create them are being blown up by dynamite fishing, smothered by sediment-laden run-off from rainforest clearance and poisoned by pollution. But by far the biggest threat to the reef comes from industrial and agricultural development and tourism.

Only two hours' flying time from America, Belize is fast becoming an important paradise holiday destination in the Caribbean, but unless its tourism can be managed, the reef's wealth of resources could be destroyed. The luxuriant coral seascapes attract hordes of snorkellers and scuba divers who, through inexperience, can smash a plate or branching coral with a flipper or handle the sensitive polyps. Dive-boat operators thoughtlessly let their anchors drag across reefs, destroying in a matter of seconds swathes of coral that may have taken hundreds of years to mature. The saddest and most unnecessary aspect of the tourist industry is the associated trade in marine curios. Souvenir shops are crammed with rare shells and skeletons of corals, often artificially coloured in a pathetic attempt to restore their "living" hues.

Dried starfish and turtles, shrivelled sea horses and inflated porcupine pufferfish hang on lengths of string.

The Belize government has already declared large rain-forest and wetland reserves, but only three marine reserves (Hol Chan, Half Moon Cay and Glover's Reef Atoll) exist on the barrier reef. Coral Cay Conservation, a British organisation, lies at the heart of its survival plan. Anyone can join one of its research expeditions: all you need is an ability to dive (or a willingness to learn), a keen interest in conservation and a generous pinch of enthusiasm.

Expedition members are based on a small coral island (one of several hundred on the reef) called South Water Cay. Upon arrival they are taught

how to survey the reef and identify its inhabitants. A large, wooden building, formerly a retreat for nuns, provides bunk-bed accommodation, a diving workshop, kitchen, dining hall and study. The first floor has an open balcony — an ideal place to string a hammock on a hot, humid night and enjoy the cooling ocean breeze and the sound of waves caressing the shore just ten metres away.

Life there is not for the faint-hearted. The days are long: diving starts at six in the morning and continues until nightfall, and

members also participate in chores and maintaining equipment. Every day teams of divers take to the sea in fast, open dive boats, which are equipped with sophisticated satellite navigation systems enabling survey locations to be pinpointed. Finning along fixed survey paths, the divers use underwater notepads to record the different corals, fish and other marine species. They map the contours of the seabed and make a note of any human impact in the area.

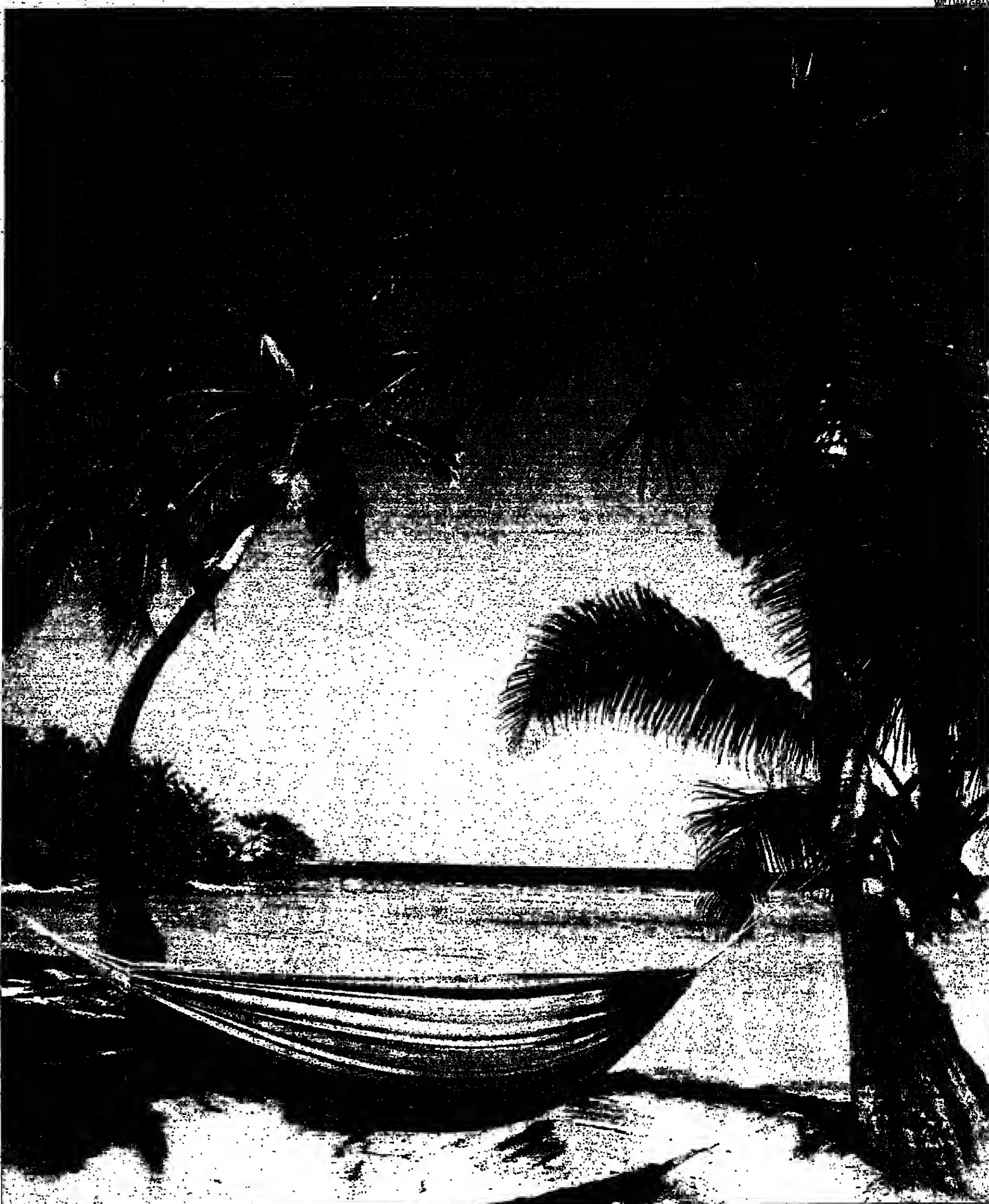
Beyond the coral reef world, they experience is unsurpassed by any other region of the sea in its diversity and abundance of life. A spectacular range of reef habitats is covered, ranging from shallow seagrass beds to the plummeting outer drop-off of the barrier reef, an almost vertical cliff of coral descending hundreds of feet to the sea floor.

After each survey, divers transfer their notes to record sheets, which are fed into a computer database. This is being used to devise a conservation management plan which will assess and monitor the reef's sensitivity to human activities and ensure that industries like tourism and fishing have minimum impact. This is a unique opportunity to contribute — and, as the divers descend into the warm, turquoise realm of coral reefs, they may well be rewarded by a close encounter with a pair of inquisitive eagle rays.



Magnificent frigatebird off Belize

Souvenir shops are crammed with rare shells and skeletons of corals, often artificially coloured



Dream destination on a coral island — but unchecked tourism brings hordes of snorkellers and scuba divers, whose inexperience causes untold damage to the reef



Divers prepare to go to work doing conservation surveys on the Belize Barrier Reef

## In the swim

□ To join a Coral Cay Conservation expedition (071 498 6248) costs from £1,675 for 28 days to £3,200 for 84 days inclusive of return flights to Belize, hotel accommodation while in transit, full board and lodging on the reef, hire of most expedition equipment and scientific training.



□ William Gray, 24, is a natural history writer, photographer and artist. After graduating in zoology from Durham University in 1990, he began a personal study of the coral reef ecosystem after a trip to Australia's Great Barrier Reef. His book, *Coral Reefs and Islands — The Natural History of a Threatened Paradise*, is published by David & Charles, price £17.99. A part of the royalties will help fund survey work on the Belize Barrier Reef by Coral Cay Conservation.

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## RESTAURANT WATCH

**SALES RESORT**  
**Pierre Victoire**  
 9 William Street,  
 London SW1 (071-823 1414)  
 In this new, 150-seat branch of Pierre Levis's rapidly expanding bargain bistrot chain, the three-course lunch is £6.90 (elsewhere £4.90), but the French embassy staff eat here regularly. All branches open noon-3pm and 6-11pm, Monday to Saturday, and work from the same cookbook. Reckon £15 a head, including wine, in the evening.

**THIRD MABEY**  
**St Peter's Restaurant and Wine Bar**  
 35/37 St Peter's Street,  
 Ipswich, Suffolk (0473 210810)  
 Robert Mabey, former head chef at Hildesheim Hall, now has a third restaurant in Suffolk. The new one is in what was the Oxborough Hotel in Ipswich. Head chef is Lawrence Clifford, who was formerly at both Mabey's Brasserie in Sudbury and the New Regatta in Aldeburgh. Similar menu: reckon £20 a head.

**IN MY BACKYARD**  
**The Hothouse**  
 78/80 Wapping Lane,  
 London E1 (071-488 4797)  
 Nigel Fenner-Fowkes is hoping it is third time lucky, reopening a long empty property within walking distance of The Times's back door, where two previous operations proved short-lived. Open noon-3.30pm and 5.30-11.45pm, Monday to Saturday, and noon-10.30pm on Sunday. About £25.

**NOT SO FAT**  
**Norfolk Place**  
 Point House,  
 Coltsall, Norfolk (0603 739991)  
 Nick Gill, formerly head chef at Hildesheim Hall and the Feathers in Woodstock, Oxfordshire, is now offering set five-course dinners (£22.50) in his own new and cottage restaurant just outside Norwich. Open for dinners only, Tuesday to Saturday. Special meals for children by arrangement.

**ROBIN YOUNG**

# Economies with fat and the truth

Drew Smith explains the language of fatspeak, which exploits the gap between our appetites and our health-conscious diets

The whole discussion about fat has been reduced to a neurotic hypocrisy. Even a supermarket such as Tesco, which prides itself on having introduced healthier eating concepts, was selling over Christmas a bezer little pot of double cream with sugar and Cointreau, which is probably about as unhealthy as you can get.

Not to be outdone, Sainsbury's has been going in another direction with a mean little line in nonsense called "diet extra-thick cream". In fact, the fat has been homogenised to thicken it, but it has 5 per cent more fat than single cream, so it is not much of a diet, more of a withdrawal therapy.

When Joanna Lumley (who else) speaks seductively in advertisements about her dark side and her virtuous side, it is easy to overlook the fact that she is talking about yoghurt. Reputedly "thick and creamy", in practice it is 5 per cent milk fat or 3.9g fat, depending on which bit of the packaging you read. Which is to say, Ms Lumley does not have much of a dark side at all. To put it into context, she is selling something that has nearly one fifth of the fat level of Sainsbury's so-called Diet Cream.

These images underline our conflict with fat itself. We have invented a language for it. Let us call it "fatspeak". Fatspeak badgers us into believing that we are all obsessives, that tomorrow there will be cream buns for everyone. In fatspeak, we are all junkies, tearing ourselves away from 4 per cent fat one day, sure in the knowledge that tomorrow is another day and it will not be about low-fat cottage cheese.

In fatspeak we are encouraged to have low self-esteem. Fatspeak plays on our concerns about health and self-image. It serves to justify the conflict in our attitude to fat.

Worryingly, fatspeak has managed to enshrine itself in law. The nutritional labelling has been subverted. A packet of butter carries the seemingly innocent data that 100g will supply the recommended daily intake of vitamin A and a third of vitamin D. Terrific. How cosy. But consider just how much 100g of butter is. Not quite half a packet. A rather larger slab than the width of this newspaper column. Anyone eating that amount of butter daily would have serious dietary liabilities. And yet the thought is planted, and seemingly endorsed by government, that eating so much butter might possibly be one avenue to a balanced diet.

Take another example: cream. The nutritional data is expressed as

grams. But in the real world, cartons are measured in pints or millilitres. The maths become tricky. If 284ml of cream costs 75p, how much fat does that contain if there are 23.5g of fat in 100g? And where does that fit in a balanced diet? This is fatspeak. Doubtless, readers of *The Times* can handle such mental somersaults, but was not this nutritional labelling designed to help people who need dietary direction?

Nutritional labelling is demeaned by association, because what fatspeak does assist greatly with, naturally, is making money. Sales of skimmed milk have risen to rival those of ordinary milk. In other areas of the dairy industry, when the fat is taken out and recycled, the saving is passed on to the customer. This is not so with skimmed milk.

Promise is a new product from Van den Berghs. It is a spread that is 97 per cent fat-free, roughly the same price as butter, but in fat terms about on a par with low-fat yoghurt. This is achieved by using water, as are all low fat spreads. This is what you pay for and why it is often argued (in the real world) that these foods are not really cheaper, just diluted. The product also contains modified starch. Those two items comprise 97 per cent of the ingredients. Cream has to be added, which is where the 3 per cent fat comes from. So desperate are we to believe in fatspeak, that we will buy 3 per cent cream filled out with any old gunk to maintain the texture and

FAT LEVELS	
Individual brands may vary by a few points, usually upwards.	
Butter	80
1 Can't Believe It's Not Butter	70
Clotted cream	55
Double cream	48
Crème fraîche	40
Flora	39
Whipping cream	35
Waitrose crème fraîche	30
Low fat double cream	22
Single cream	18
Half cream	12
Greek yoghurt	10
Fromage frais	6.8
Jersey milk	4.8
Milk	4
Low fat fromage frais	3
Custard style yoghurt	3
Semi-skimmed milk	1.7
Virtually fat-free yoghurt	1
Skimmed milk	0.3
Halo	0.2
Virtually fat-free fromage frais	0.1

believe it is great value. Such, it seems to me, is poverty. It does not even taste very good, like a cheesy margarine, but the texture is convincing.

Van den Berghs also brought us 1 Can't Believe It's Not Butter. One reason you might not believe it is not butter is that it is only 10 per cent short of enough fat to be butter. Sadly, it mixes the worst of both worlds, a high fat count, plus hydrogenated oil. The butter flavour is from the 13 per cent buttermilk. But it is half the price of butter.

It was poor old butter that invented fatspeak. In a desperate attempt to defend its pure image, it succeeded in getting a law passed to ensure that butter had to be 80 per cent fat. At the turn of the century, faced with the rise of imitation, and in 1909 with the arrival of hydrogenation, which turns liquid fats solid, the butter producers must have felt pretty clever. Since then, they have watched helplessly as watered down substitutes have hogged the market place and fatspeak has been invented to represent all the things they abhorred.

Fatspeak has also dispensed with ordinary yoghurt. In practical terms it no longer exists. There is Greek yoghurt, at up to 10 per cent fat, or half that of single cream, which is low fat at 3 per cent, or virtually fat-free at 0.1 per cent. Yoghurt has become the right-on answer to fatspeak. Even Häagen Dazs, arch-purveyors of quality cream in ice-cream, have turned to yoghurt for its 98 per cent fat-free, Mivvi-style, frozen peach yoghurt wrapped in peach sorbet. Yoghurt works as a substitute for other dairy fats, tastes good and is a genuine low-fat product.

You might think from all of this that these are the last gasps of a once fat industry in decline and that the headline nutritional lobby is about to declare a famous victory. Or you might simply think that we are all being taken for a ride.

The volume of fatspeak is being turned up. This is not simply keeping on the health-food bandwagon. The marketplace itself has started to perform irrationally — or we have. Sales of fromage frais have astounded analysts. Milk quotas have pushed traditional producers into new directions. All that skimmed milk we are drinking has left behind it a surplus of fat. Supermarkets have started to shift yoghurts out of the dairy section into the novelty sweet cabinet.

Crème fraîche is another modern-day success, pioneered by Sains-



"If 284ml of cream costs 75p, how much fat does that contain if there are 23.5g of fat in 100g?"

bury's. This is fat by another name, although, in the French way, rather than being fresh cream, it is left to ripen or mature for a few hours to develop a nutty taste. Much of what is found here is from Isigny in Normandy, which has *appellation contrôlée* for its crème fraîche, just like a great wine. It is a traditional product, usually with a little less fat than double cream, although Waitrose and Yoplait have succeeded in getting the fat down to just 30 per cent without undue damage.

To create a low-fat version, Yoplait adds skimmed milk, starch, gelatine, pectin to stabilise and potassium sorbate to preserve. Like other low-fat crèmes fraîches, it is a novelty. Or, more fairly, it is a different product. If it were milk, it would not be allowed to use the same name. But in fatspeak there is one law for crème fraîche and another for milk.

Express Foods' new milk substitute, Halo, is a mere 97 per cent milk. But unlike Promise, which is

97 per cent not fat, Halo is 97 per cent milk but cannot call itself milk. We have now reached the advanced level of fatspeak.

Express has used sunflower oil to alter the relationship of the saturated and unsaturated fats and knock down the cholesterol level. In fatspeak Halo declares itself as having 80 per cent less fat than semi-skimmed milk. Semi-skimmed milk has only 1.7 per cent fat, so the figure of 80 per cent is somewhat relative.

## Pastures of dairy ice

For a Yorkshire couple, ice-cream production comes naturally

Yorkshire Dales farmer Brian Moore's remembrance of European Community milk quotas being introduced in 1984 on, appropriately enough, April Fools Day. His recently achieved lifelong ambition to become a dairy farmer was about to be smashed as the new lower quotas would soon bankrupt his business.

After many sleepless nights, he and his wife Brenda hit upon the idea of making ice-cream from their Guernsey herd as there was almost no production of real dairy ice-cream at that time.

After advice from the Ice-Cream Alliance, the producers and retailers trade association, they made their first batch one rainy Sunday and they gave it away to passers-by. Now about 30 per cent of their milk yield goes into producing up to 2,000 litres a day of Brymor Real Dairy Ice-Cream at the Moores' present farm at High Jervaulx, near Masham, in Wensleydale.

Mr Moore, now 58 years old, was an electrical engineer before going into farming part-time in 1973 and turning full-time 12 years ago. He says: "I'd always wanted to farm since I was a boy. Our original farm at Weeton, near Leeds, was 100 acres with a 100 Guernsey dairy cows.

"Under the quotas we had to halve production there and the value of the cattle I'd bought for £500 each dropped to £250. It was not a question of 'will making real dairy ice-cream work?' It had to."

The start-up costs were £20,000 to produce 180 litres of ice-cream daily.

"We got the recipe right from the word go," Mr Moore says. "There is no room for guesswork and everything is weighed to the last gram. The only change was switching from butter to double cream to make it richer. If you increase the butter content it gives a grainy taste."

Brymor has won Ice-Cream Alliance and National Farmers Union awards. Mr Moore has never done any sales "rapping", apart from initially persuading a few favourite restaurants and hotels in Harrogate and Knaresborough to stock the brand. Its popularity spread by word of mouth.

The distribution area runs from Llangollen, Clwyd, across to Skegness, in Lincolnshire, and from Hildesheim, Northumberland, to Welwyn in Hertfordshire. A wholesaler sells it in London and Cardiff. It is also set to be launched in Scotland after an Edinburgh wholesaler chanced to stop by while on a Dales holiday.

It takes about three hours to



Brian and Brenda Moore on their farm with one of their herd of dairy cows

make a mix. Milk, cream, sugar, dextrose, skimmed milk powder (to balance the extra cream), emulsifiers and stabilisers are combined in a pasteuriser and then cooled. Aging varies, and freezing takes two to three hours. Mr Moore says: "The ice-cream is as natural as natural can be. Our fruit flavours come from Italy; they're the best pure fruit pulps, specially heat-treated for ice-cream. If you add fresh fruit directly, such as local strawberries, problems occur, such as inconsistent colour."

"We've toured Italy and the America, studying ice-cream production techniques. Afterwards we introduced the frozen yoghurt and Big Country ranges. For the latter we

import sauces and nuts from the United States and Canada." Their unexpected business success forced them to move farms. Harrogate Borough Council, which originally gave the project its blessing, refused retrospective planning permission for a visitors' car park, saying the shop attracted too much traffic.

There followed an acrimonious five-year planning battle, with two public enquiries, which the Moores lost. Their £150,000 legal costs again threatened bankruptcy.

The Moores spotted High Jervaulx Farm during a delivery round, and both felt this was to be their new base.

Several bank interviews later a loan was raised (thanks to a sound business plan) to buy the 225-acre farm, now stocked with a 120-strong milking herd and 70 heifers.

Mr Moore advises that anyone wishing to start a similar venture must have a dedication to quality, enough energy for 16-hour working days and, of course, a full grasp of all planning issues.

He says: "The best way to come out of the kind of experience we've had is to be better than before."

PETER ELSON

● The Brymor ice-cream parlour at High Jervaulx Farm is on the A6108 between Masham and Middleham, North Yorkshire (0677 60337).

## Uncork a bargain sip

TAKE extra care with the January wine sales. Having studied the 1994 form, I find there are some astonishingly good bargains, especially among fine vintage wines, but there are plenty of dreary, past-their-best runners, too. Studying the small print is the first step to securing a bargain when ordering sale wine by mail. Do the prices quoted include VAT and delivery, and are there full cases of 12 bottles, 24 halves, or six magnums on offer? Last year, one merchant's prices looked keen until I realised the "case" offered contained only six bottles. Avoid, too, bin ends featuring 11 bottles only; someone has tasted the 12th and found it wanting.

Make sure, too, that you have all the cut-price lists for high street outlets: the prices of fine wines here often undercut those of wine merchants. Having said that, I would be amazed if any high street competitor could match the mail-order prices of Laytons, in northwest London, for vintage after vintage of great claret, plus a first-class but limited range of burgundy, champagne and vintage port. Plunder such gems as '90 Beycheville (£13.70), '88 La Grange (£8.71), '86 Palmer (£22.52), and the pricier bottles, including '83 Latour (£43) and '85 Latour (£44). Half bottles seem extraordinarily good value, particularly the '89 Cos d'Estournel and '88 Léoville Barton (£5.87) and '89 Grand Puy Lacoste (£5.38).

BURGUNDY bibbers will relish Dujac, Armand Rousseau and Ponsot burgundies, but I am more likely to buy the under-stated Druiz non-vintage champagne, a snip at £13.61, and vintage ports such as Warre '83 (£10.57) and Cockburn '85 (£13.02). Prices throughout the Laytons sale list are mostly a third, sometimes a half, less than usual, much coming from the £3 million cellar of Atkinson Baldwin's distressed stock which Laytons was appointed to dispose of last year. Laytons will be holding a fine wine sale January 5-9.

Majestic Wine Warehouse's sale also concentrates on distressed stock. In this instance from a Channel Islands company, with 5,500 cases of

Jane MacQuitty pours out her wine sales bargains

almost 300 different wines, principally claret and port, with the odd burgundy, Alsace and champagne bottles. Majestic's top 25 warehouses will carry only a few cases of each of the biggest bins at its sale starting on January 15. With luck, you should be able to snap up a bottle or two of the likes of '85 Beycheville (£16.99), '88 Druiz Beaucaillou (£19.99), '88 Figeac (£19.99), '86 Lascombes (£13.99), '88 Palmer (£9.99), and acclaimed ports such as Taylor's and Graham's '85, both at £16.99.

If you are after fine and rare growers' wines, try Bibendum, in northwest London, whose sale continues until February 26. Here you have

snips from Italy, Spain, California, the Rhône and leading domaine-bottled burgundy from growers such as Lucien Boillot, Méo-Camuzet, Leflaive and Vocoret in Chablis. Good buys here include '90 Sainsbury Pinot Noir Réserve (£15.99), '86 Hermitage Le Greal, Marc Sorrel (£9.25), '92 Stoneleigh Sauvignon Blanc (£3.99), Burgundy bargains abound, such as Boillot's splendid '90 Bourgogne Rouge (£5.99) and Méo-Camuzet's '89 Nuits St Georges, Aux Murgers (£27). Look out, too, for fine, cut-price tawny ports, including Graham's ten-year-old (€10.99), 20-year-old (€21) and '79 M. Wode (£12.99).

For a comprehensive range of cut-price classics, try the Lay & Wheeler 440-bin sale, January 4-31. Bordeaux, Burgundy, Alsace, the Rhône and Champagne get good coverage, as does Germany and the antipodes. There is a good clutch of golden Bordeaux vintages, including '88, '89, '90, '86, '85 and even the '82s. Go for the '90 Cos d'Estournel, '88 Lynch Bages, both at £20.95, the Cissac '83 (£9.49) and, if you are flush, great '82s such as Druiz Beaucaillou (£35.94) and Léoville-Las Cases (£36.95). Leflaive, Grivot and Dujac burgundies, Guigal, Jaboulet and Jamin rhônes also merit attention.

DILIGENT bargain hunters will want to try Corney & Barrow's curiously entitled "Bang Two" postal and fax sale (no telephone orders), whose eclectic range includes '86 Richotey (£5), and Adams, of Suffolk, whose modest discounts look most appealing from top Rhône growers.

John Harvey and Sons of Bristol have bin ends as diverse as Latour '77 (£17.50), '83 Cos d'Estournel (£14.75) and '82 Druiz Beaucaillou (£40). The sale starts on January 22.

● Laytons, 20 Midland Road, London NW1 (071-388 5081). Majestic Wine Warehouse (0923 805999), Bibendum, 113, Regents Park Road, London NW1 (071-722 5370). Lay & Wheeler, 6 Culver Street West, Colchester, Essex (0206 76445/767670). Corney & Barrow, 12 Helmet Row, London EC1 (fax, 071-608 1373; phone, 071-251 4051). Adams, The Crown, High Street, Southwold, Suffolk (0533 725222). John Harvey and Sons, 12 Denmark Street, Bristol (0272 268882).

Continued from page 1  
 In Copenhagen itself, the best ice-cream is Swiss, available at a booth in the Strøget. Mövenpick is a choice mass-produced ice-cream which has provided me with sensual satisfaction from Leipzig to Auckland. It is even available in Switzerland.

Where there is no work of reference, I explore. In Las Vegas (not the gambling hell in Nevada, but its alter ego in New Mexico) I have basked in the delights of the old-fashioned Lickety-Split parlour only yards from the place where Doc Holiday had his final shoot-out.

Wandering in Las Palmas, in the Canaries, I came upon a tiny establishment which provided a home-made fruit and nut to make the eyes water in ecstasy. In Odessa, Ukraine, next to the celebrated statue that appeared in *The Battleship Potemkin*, I found a co-operative store where, for a few kopecks, I overindulged on a vanilla that almost equalled Salt Lake City's.

It is, of course, essential to learn the name of ice-cream in whatever country one happens to be. In the Latin lands that is simple enough: *gelato*, *helado*. In Hungarian, a law unto itself, the word for

ice-cream is *fagyalt*. My dedication to the delectable comestible is proved by my achievement, in Prague, of not only discovering the Czech name (*smržlina*) but even learning to pronounce it.

In Hebrew the word is *glida* and, with its assistance, I have gorged myself on Jewish ice-cream. A grim industrial suburb adjoining the Israeli seaside town of Herzliya is notable for a gourmand's paradise named Dr Leck ("leek" being Yiddish for "lick").

Dr Leck is not the only ice-cream parlour to merge a breakfast food with ice-cream.

At a homely establishment called Mary's in Portland, Maine, I had grapefruit ice-cream, and very nice, too. I can also boast of having had ice-cream for breakfast.

Returning last month from the United States as a first-class overnight passenger on British Airways, I noted that the sumptuous dinner menu climaxed with green-tea ice-cream, a flavour I had not tasted since my Kyoto experience. It is my invariable practice on long flights to take two pills and sleep away the journey. On the other hand, I did not wish to miss the ice-cream. The deeply caring

stewards solved my dilemma. As the aeroplane approached Britain's shores, I was woken with a frozen petit déjeuner.

From America's Pacific shore to the Arabian Sea and beyond (including India, which has its own idiosyncratically grainy variety), the world is an ice-cream paradise waiting to be explored and exploited. My dream is to compile the definitive and authoritative intercontinental, transoceanic and stratospheric guide to ice-cream. Only the surety temporary absence of a visionary publisher stands between the world and the book. It really needs.



# Dishes with a glow

Frances Bissell  
presents some  
warming dishes  
— and a wickedly  
sweet and sticky  
ginger cake



The parties are over, you're tired, and you probably never want to see another canapé. With luck, even the leftovers are finished. It is time for soothing food; food for warmth and comfort. And some traditional food, too.

I have included a cake recipe, because tea-time for me is a sublimely soothing interlude. I make scones and serve cake or, if I'm on my own, I eat bananas on toast, which I love. Ginger cake has become a passion this winter: really gingery, sweet and sticky. This is not a recipe which adapts to a low-fat, low-sugar version, as these are the ingredients which make it distinctive.

I look to Italy for inspiration for the other recipes. New Year's food there always includes something from the pig. The best of these is *cotechino*, a boiling-sausage made from minced pork, seasonings and pork rind — a good excuse to eat mashed potatoes. The last time I ate *cotechino* was in the *Ristorante Regina* in Cocconato d'Asi, a small village in Monferrato, Piemonte. Made by Signor Guido Ferrero, a *maestro salumai*, it was served with a fine purée of potatoes, to which he had added a little

*Jonduta* (melted cheese sauce). Many cuisines have a chicken and rice dish, often served on festive occasions, and Piemonte is no exception. The recipe which follows is based on the dish Signora Beppe Bava serves to her family for special Sunday lunches. She grates white ruffles over the dish just before serving, but rumage also provides a good seasoning. In the Bava household, we drank Bava wines. I would recommend any good Barbera d'Asti with the chicken dish.

**Potato and cheese purée**  
(serves 4-6)  
2lb/900g potato  
4tbsp warm milk  
6oz/170g Fontina cheese, sliced  
1tbsp softened butter  
salt, pepper

Peel and boil the potatoes until soft, and then push through a ricer or *mouli-légumes*. Otherwise, mash with the warm milk. Stir in the cheese and the butter, and beat until incorporated. Season to taste. Serve with *cotechino*, *zampone*, pork chops or roast pork.

**"Riso e gallina"**  
(Rice and chicken)  
(serves 6-8)  
4lb/1.8kg free-range, mature chicken  
1 celery stalk, finely chopped  
1 shallot, peeled and chopped  
2 cloves garlic, peeled and finely chopped  
2oz/60g butter or extra virgin olive oil  
1/2pt/400ml dry white wine, preferably sparkling  
14-16oz/400-500g risotto rice  
4 free-range egg yolks  
1/2pt/200ml whipping or double cream  
salt, pepper  
nutmeg

Remove any excess fat from the bird's cavity and put it in a large stockpot, together with aromatics, such as a slice or two of fresh ginger, a bayleaf or two, a sliver of lemon zest, a celery stalk. Cover with water

and bring slowly to the boil. Turn down the heat to the merest simmer and cook until the chicken is tender, about 50-60 minutes, somewhat longer if you are using a boiling fowl. Meanwhile, gently fry the celery, shallot and garlic in the butter or oil until soft. Stir in the wine, and cook until evaporated. Stir in the rice and, when it is well-coated, add a ladleful of boiling chicken stock, poured from the chicken pot into a smaller saucepan. When it has been absorbed, add another ladleful, continuing in this way until the rice is almost cooked. Beat egg yolks and cream, and cook over a low heat until thickened, taking care not to let it curdle. Take the chicken out of the pot, and remove the meat in large slivers.

Finish cooking the rice, and season; it should be tender but not sloppy. Remove it from the heat. Stir in half the sauce, and heap the rice into a hot bowl, serving platter or tureen.

Arrange the chicken pieces around the edges, and trickle the rest of the sauce over the rice. A grating of white truffles turns this dish into a feast.

**Baked onion**  
(serves 6)  
Take six medium onions and cut the stalk ends level. Place on a baking sheet and bake until soft, for about an hour at 200C/400F, gas mark 6. Cut off lids, scoop out most of the centre, leaving one or two layers as a wall. Blend the onion until smooth, mix with a little cream or grated cheese, or if you have it, potato and cheese purée, and return to the oven for five to ten minutes for the flavours to mingle. Serve as a separate course, or as an accompaniment.

GINGER cake will be paler or darker according to the sugar and syrup you use. Granulated, Demerara, light or dark muscovado, or even molasses sugar will give bulk to the

cake: the stickiness is provided by the syrup. Golden syrup, molasses or one of the palm sugars, or jaggery.

The cake keeps well, in fact improves over a few days, but the mixture makes such a good hot pudding that I usually make a large quantity of cake batter, bake a cake with a little over half the mixture, and pour the rest into a cake tin, which is first liberally buttered and sugared. A layer of sliced figs, pears or apples is first laid in the bottom of the tin.

When cooked — about 20 minutes at 180C/350F, gas mark 4 — the ginger fruit pudding is turned out upside down on to a plate. Serve it with yoghurt, *crème fraîche*, or the Piedmontese cream pudding, *panna cotta* (see last week's column for recipe).

**Ginger cake**  
(makes a cake of 6-8 pieces and a pudding for 4-6, as described above)  
8oz/230g unsalted butter, softened

8oz/230g sugar (see above)  
8oz/230g Golden Syrup, or other syrup, warmed  
4 free-range eggs, lightly beaten  
10oz/280g self-raising flour  
1tbsp ground ginger  
1tbsp ground allspice  
2tsp freshly grated ginger  
2oz/60g chopped crystallised or preserved ginger  
1tbsp plain Greek yoghurt  
1tbsp baking powder

Cream the butter and sugar, and add the syrup. Beat thoroughly and add the eggs and flour, alternately. Lastly, blend in the ginger, spice, yoghurt and baking powder. Divide the batter between a greased flour cake tin and a prepared pudding tin, as described earlier. Bake in the top half of a pre-heated oven at 180C/350F, gas mark 4, for about 30-40 minutes, until a skewer poked into the middle comes out clean.

HERE are two more teatime favourites, to be served hot

**Crumpets**  
(serves 4)  
1tsp dried yeast  
1/2pt/400ml water  
pinch of sugar  
scant tsp salt  
10oz/280g plain flour  
pinch of sugar

Sprinkle the yeast on to half pint/280ml warm water and add the sugar. When the yeast is bubbling, stir in the flour and salt and mix until you have a smooth, soft dough or firm batter. Cover with a damp cloth and leave to rise in a warm, draught-free place for an hour or so. Warm the rest of the water and stir it into the mixture until you have a looser batter. Cover and let it prove for ten to 15 minutes more.

Have the griddle hot and greased, with the crumpet rings in place. Pour in batter to half fill the rings. (Crumpet rings can be made by folding baking parchment into several thicknesses, about 1in/2.5cm deep and stapling together.)

Cook until holes appear on the top, the surface is dry and the underside browned. Remove and keep them warm in a cloth-lined basket until you have cooked the rest of the crumpets.

**Scotch pancakes**  
(makes about 18)  
1lb/230g plain flour  
1tbsp baking powder  
pinch of salt  
8oz/280ml milk  
1 free-range egg  
2tbsp melted butter  
2tbsp caster sugar

Sift the dry ingredients into a bowl and stir in the liquids. Beat until you have a thick batter of a dropping consistency. Have the griddle or pan hot and greased. Spoon the mixture on to the surface, a tablespoon at a time, cooking three or four pancakes at once. When the underside is smoothly browned, and the top surface dry and bubbled, turn and cook on the other side.

## Market for starry-eyed chefs

John Brunton  
explores the  
freshest food  
pleasures of the  
Rialto market  
in Venice



Away from the crowds, part of the colourful Rialto market near the centre of Venice

When you get a group of great chefs together for a business meeting it is hard to keep them away from food. This was the case when the Relais et Châteaux group held its annual conference in Venice. Exploring new markets and discovering different produce is always exciting for chefs, and each morning the city's Rialto market was filled with the Michelin stars playing truant from the seminars.

I spotted Bernard Loiseau, the man rapidly replacing Bocuse as France's most famous chef, André Daguin, from Gascony, known as the king of foie gras, Olivier Roellinger, elected Chef of the Year by *Le Cordon Rouge*, and Michel Roux, of the Waterside Inn at Bray, Berkshire.

The Rialto market displays fish and vegetables you'll see nowhere else in Italy, and concentrates on serving the local population.

The "Mercato di Rialto" starts about 100 yards from the famous bridge, occupying a bend in the Grand Canal. This has always been the commercial heart of the city, and the sprawling square and narrow alleyways that once made a marketplace for exotic spices and silks from the Orient are now a colourful showcase for the products that distinguish Venetian cuisine from other Italian regions: fish and seafood from the Adriatic, vegetables from the islands of the lagoon, game from forests on the mainland, mushrooms from Croatia.

In a sense, life has changed at the market since the Middle Ages, as each morning at 4am long transport boats chug down the Grand Canal to unload their wares. The centre of the market is a covered loggia occupied by the fish market. Surrounding that are dozens of fruit and vegetable stalls, and dotted around the

nearby cobbled streets are the butchers' shops where, in the hunting season, the windows are full of pheasants, quail, venison, wild boar and tiny birds that non-Italians might wish to ignore.

Venetian cuisine is about fish and vegetables, rather than meat, and it is in the "pescaria" that the fun really begins. On the facade of the fish market is an ancient sign that details the minimum lengths of fish to be sold: sardines 7cm, bream 12cm, eels 25cm.

Most of the fish and seafood comes from the Adriatic or the lagoon. Venetian diners are not as fussy as others about the degree of pollution in their waters, and are proud of their *vongole*, razor clams, and the expensive *moleche* — tiny shore crabs, bred in the shallow waters of the lagoon and sold for only a few weeks in spring and autumn as they lose their shells.

The season's speciality at the moment is a strange butterfly-looking creature, the *camochia* — the mantis shrimp — which is difficult to extract from its shell, but delicious with *cicchetti*, tapes served simply with olive oil and flat parsley. There is always a selection of sea bass, John Dory, turbot, denties, angler fish, and eel. Prices can vary



The freshness of food is prized above everything

from stall to stall, because freshness is prized above all, and the fishmonger who doesn't sell one day is forced to cut his prices the next.

Opposite the *Pescaria* is a typical osteria, *Vini de Finto*, a good place to sample some of the produce from the market.

The owner serves wines from his own vineyard in the Veneto, and delicious tithes of prawn, baby octopus, sardine, grilled squid and haccala.

The colours of the vegetable market change with the season. Now it is orange and red, with the arrival of tangerines from Sicily, giant pumpkins to make *gnocchi di zucca* and red caddichio lentures from nearby Treviso. Come spring, the stalls will be laden with green and white asparagus from Bassano del Grappa.

No Venetian would think of buying food for the coming week, and stallholders never refuse someone wanting, say, two tomatoes or three carrots. The key word is *nostrano* (our own), applying to vegetables from San Erasmo, the market garden island of the lagoon, where sea salt in the soil gives vegetables a distinct flavour.

There have been proposals to move the market far from the centre of the city, but a morning spent wandering around here makes it clear the locals will never give up their beloved Rialto market.

• The Rialto market is open Tues-Sat, 8am-1pm. Books: *Mediterranean Sea Food* by Alan Davidson (Penguin, £10.99). *La Cucina del Veneto* (Edizioni Mida) is sold in Venice, written in English and Italian, about £7.

## Aberlour Hogmanay Quiz

If you like your whisky and know your Scotland these 50 questions could be the key to a wonderful weekend

TODAY is your last chance to enter the Aberlour Hogmanay Quiz. This year's competition is bigger, harder, more detailed and longer than ever before. And it now encompasses more subjects testing your knowledge of all things Scottish.

The top prize is a tailor-made weekend for two in

Scotland, catering to the winner's personal tastes. Every-one who gets all the answers right will receive a miniature bottle of Aberlour Single Malt and even those who make mistakes will receive a voucher entitling them to £2 off their next bottle of Aberlour. Today, all 50 questions are reprinted below.

### HOW TO ENTER

Simply answer the 50 questions reprinted below and send them with your name and address to: The Times/Aberlour Hogmanay Quiz, 18-19 Whitefriars Street, London, EC8 2NG, to arrive no later than Monday, January 10, 1994. The winner will be chosen from all correct entries received by this date. Normal Times Newspaper competition rules apply.



Bagpipes are played to the whisky every evening

### ABERLOUR HOGMANAY QUIZ QUESTIONS

#### SPORT

1. Who, in recent years, has represented Scotland at both football and cricket?
2. Who scored a penalty to take Scotland to the 1978 World Cup, but, once there, missed one?
3. Name three racing drivers with Scottish towns in their names.
4. Who won the women's 10,000 metres at the 1991 World Championships in Tokyo?
5. Who was the last Scottish athlete to win an Olympic gold medal?
6. In which two years has Edinburgh hosted the Commonwealth Games?
7. Which football team has been sponsored by Aberlour Single Malt?
8. Which Scottish cyclist has smashed records on his home-made bike?
9. When do salmon fishers stop using shrimps on their lines?
10. Which is the shortest of the St Andrews' golf courses?

#### HISTORY

11. Where did Mary Queen of Scots last sleep in Scotland, before leaving for France from Solway in 1568?
12. Which saint made a sign of the cross to save a servant from an

- attack by Nessie, the Loch Ness monster?
13. When was the Aberlour distillery founded?
14. As well as English, many languages have been used in Scotland throughout history. Name three?
15. Where are the ancient headquarters of the Campbells?
16. Who did Robert the Bruce murder in 1306, in order to be crowned King of the Scots and Robert I?
17. How old was James II when he was crowned and anointed?
18. Name Scotland's most celebrated Victorian missionary and explorer.
19. Who was "the uncrowned King of Scotland"?
20. Which member of the current Royal family was born at Glamis Castle?

#### GEOGRAPHY

21. How many rivers feed into Loch Ness?
22. What does the word Aber in Aberlour mean and anoint?
23. To the nearest five miles, how long is the River Spey?
24. Which Scottish town is the historical home of freemasonry?
25. What is the highest point on the island of Skye?
26. Which is the highest distillery in Scotland?

#### FOOD AND DRINK

27. Which are the three main islands in the Firth of Clyde?
28. Name six Islay distilleries?
29. Where is Prince Charles's Cave?
30. How many local government areas are there in Scotland?
31. Where did Shakespeare locate the murder of *Macbeth's* Duncan?
32. Who wrote *Whisky Galore*?
33. Where did George Orwell write *1984*?
34. According to Burns, what "gang the gither with whisky"?
35. Sir James Barrie wrote many works. Which is his best known?
36. How is the memory of Burns inadvertently kept alive every New Year's Eve?
37. Robert Louis Stevenson did not follow in the family line when he became a writer. What was the profession of his grandfather and father?
38. Which gallery will you find on the second floor of the Royal Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh?
39. Which of Salvador Dali's paintings can be found in Glasgow's Museum and Art Gallery?
40. According to a local Speyside legend, what "leapt" from the water when casks of Aberlour one year fell into the River Spey?

41. What is a black bun?
42. What is a Finnan Haddie?
43. Two of Scotland's greatest consumable exports come from the village of Aberlour. One is the single malt whisky. What is the other?
44. Which single malt is produced at Scotland's smallest distillery?
45. What is traditionally stuffed to make haggis?
46. Which wood is traditionally used to smoke salmon on the west coast of Scotland?
47. To what tea does Michael Jackson compare Islay malt whiskies?
48. In which shop would you buy a Selkirk bannock?
49. At what age is Aberlour Single Malt most commonly bottled?
50. The Keepers of the Quaich, the most exclusive of whisky clubs, now approve of specific whiskies being drunk with specific gastronomic dishes. Which single malt do they recommend with lamb in macedonia sauce?

ABERLOUR





All aboard the Party Express Routemaster bus, which visits nightclubs around London: "If you don't party I'll throw you off," says co-founder Darren Chapman

## Hold very tight now

**Tim Marsh pays his fare, climbs aboard the double-decker party bus, and watches the ice break as the bell rings for a night of non-stop, high-speed clubbing around London**

It's 7.30pm on Saturday night, and there's a stand-off at Austin's Bar in the Cumberland Hotel, central London. Huddled amid the ferns a delegation from the Alternative Trainspotter's sits in stony silence, fingering deafeningly loud ties, and staring gloomily at the animated crowd of young men and women from the London commodities exchange pointedly ignoring them from the other side of the bar.

Neither group knows the other, a condition which looks likely to remain permanent. So why have they all paid £20 a head to spend the night together?

It's Party Express's fault. The latest idea in clubbing for the

restless Nineties means you need never again be bored with the local DJ playing the same old tunes to the same old faces. Instead, simply book a seat on board Party Express's double-decker disco and shuttle between four of London's top venues on the same night.

Not only does the basic fare guarantee free entry into all the clubs, no queuing, and no hassles from doormen, but the on-board PA system offers the chance to strut your stuff on the top deck of a Routemaster while bowling through London.

"It's like being on holiday without the weather," claims co-founder Darren Chapman, brimming with confidence despite the failure of

tonight's "Get to Know Each Other" session. "We get all sorts from all age groups. Everything from hen, birthday and office parties to couples, even singles. At first they usually stick together with the group they came with. But wait and see. By the second club I guarantee everyone will be dancing with each other like they've known each other all their lives. Besides I'm ruthless. If you don't party I'll throw you off."

At 8.15pm the bus arrives, decorated with party faces and stuffed with balloons. A loud cheer goes up from the commodities traders who immediately commandeer the lower deck, while the Alternative Trainspotter's file meekly upstairs. Shaggy's "Oh Carolina" blares through the loudspeakers. Annie Illott, 29, a sales and marketing analyst at the commodities exchange, is instantly on her feet. "We're celebrating a friend's twenty-sixth birthday," she says. "We didn't just want to go to a club. This sounded really fun and different."

The party atmosphere doesn't seem to have permeated upstairs yet. "We're a social club for men and women in their twenties and thirties. We do things like sliding and bungee jumping and go to discos. Our motto is 'Nerd-Free Zone,'" explains the chief Alternative Trainspotter, soberly staring out of the window.

"Everyone upstairs," Mr Chapman immediately announces. "I don't want to see anyone sitting



You can go on strutting your stuff on the top deck between clubs

down." Balloons fly everywhere. The whole bus starts dancing. But more importantly, as we sway round each corner everyone grabs hold of the nearest person for support. The ice between the two camps is broken.

Outside cars hoot and pedestrians wave, until 15 minutes later the bus halts at tonight's first venue, the trendy Buzz Bar in Leicester Square. Like a Pied Piper for the rave generation Mr Chapman leads his prancing followers straight inside, much to the annoyance of the considerable crowd patiently queuing.

"We vary the clubs each night," Mr Chapman explains as the entire party takes over the already packed

dance floor. "People who come regularly will always visit different clubs. No underground raves though. These are all fun, smart venues — no jeans. And the music will always be stuff that makes you want to dance."

An hour later it's time to undertake the second leg of the expedition. The DJ announces the bus is leaving, and the Party Express team streams through the Buzz Bar rounding up stragglers.

"We've never left anyone behind," claims Mr Chapman. "Though occasionally people will meet someone or like the club so much they want to stay."

## James Bond's licence to make a killing

**Collectors will pay handsomely for souvenirs of the career of 007, from an Aston Martin to an Airfix kit**

"JAMES Bond," says 40-year-old Dave Worrall, Britain's foremost collector of all things 007, "is just like Marilyn Monroe." In what sense, exactly, Mr Worrall? "They just simply refuse to go away — permanent, classic images — and hugely collectable."

Mr Worrall should know: when he was 11, his father took him to see the film *Goldfinger*, and young Dave was instantly hooked. "Bond became my bag. I got the Corgi Aston Martin DB5, of course, but I was a bit precocious. I suppose I didn't play with it — didn't even take it out of the box. Ah, the DB5, who could forget Sean Connery (the real James Bond) gunning that fabulous silver car through the tortuous passageways of Goldfinger's factory, machine guns blazing and an unnamed and hapless Oriental gentleman shooting through the roof with a strangled cry?"

Within two years, Corgi Toys had sold more than two million

models (rather perversely painted gold, with a red interior, although later versions were gunmetal) and the Bond memorabilia market was born. 1994 is the thirtieth anniversary of the *Goldfinger* film (the third after *Dr No* and *From Russia With Love*) and to mark the occasion Corgi has just released a gold-plated version of the clever little car (still, dammit, with a red interior); only 10,000 have been produced, and at £19.99, it might already be hard to track one down.

The original 1965 model cost 9/11d (just under 50p) but a fine example in the all-important box could now fetch more than £100.

But the 500 members of Mr Worrall's "James Bond Collectors' Club" are not interested in toy cars alone. "The whole fascination is in the breadth of material available — film posters, stills, games, kits, jigsaws, guns, comics, cigarette cards, annuals, records..." And what of the original Ian Fleming books that spawned the whole thing? "Oh yes," agrees Mr Worrall, "the first editions and the 1960s paperbacks — and, foreign editions, of course." The first editions have long been eminently collectable, but one receives the strong impression that to those impassioned by 007 paraphernalia Fleming takes second place to the agent he himself once described as a "cardboard booty".

Nonetheless, to a select and growing band, the meaning of Bond is the books and not the films.



Dave Worrall proudly displays part of his Bond collection

□ The five most scarce die-cast Corgis (prices are for mint, boxed examples):

- 1970 On Her Majesty's Secret Service gift set, including Tracy's Cougar, Ford Escort, Ford Capri, and Spectre's Mercedes, £500.
- 1971 Diamonds are Forever moonbuggy, £400.
- 1967 You Only Live Twice Toyota 2000 GT, £200.
- 1965 Goldfinger Aston Martin DB5, £100.
- 1977 The Spy Who Loved Me Lotus Esprit, £75.

□ The five most scarce James Bond artifacts (prices are for fine intact examples):

- 1966 Gilbert (US) James Bond Road Race Set, £800.
- 1966 Multiple Products James Bond Secret Agent attaché case, £500.
- 1965/6 Gilbert James Bond Action Figure, £350.
- 1966 Aurora kits of Oddjob and James Bond, £300 each.
- 1966 Airfix Aston Martin DB5, £150.

□ The five most scarce James Bond first editions (prices are for fine copies in the dust wrapper):

- 1963 Jonathan Cape: On Her Majesty's Secret Service (limited edition of 250, signed by Ian Fleming, no dust wrapper), £2,000.
- 1953 Jonathan Cape: Casino Royale, £1,000.
- 1964 Jonathan Cape: Live and Let Die, £600.
- 1955 Jonathan Cape: Moonraker, £450.
- 1956 Jonathan Cape: Diamonds are Forever, £200.

### MY PERFECT WEEKEND

#### MIKE McSHANE

##### Comedian

**Where would you go?**  
The Highlands, just outside the seaside town of Carmel in California. The Highlands is an area of beautiful forest, high on the cliffs above the ocean. Three miles from Carmel is Monterey Bay, where the migrating whales come close to the shore. Monterey also has one of the best salt water aquariums in the world.

**How would you get there?**  
By plane to San Francisco, and then by convertible to Monterey.

**Where would you stay?**  
At the Highlands Inn, where Madonna and Sean Penn spent their honeymoon, if I could afford it. It's very romantic. You stay in a private bungalow which has a sunken hot tub, a sauna, a fireplace and a refrigerator full of goodies — chocolates, cookies, salted nuts and candied popcorn. The four-star restaurant serves the best crème brûlée you will ever eat.

**Who would be your perfect companion?**  
My honey Karen since she travels so well, and has the best sense of humour when on the road.

**What essential piece of clothing or kit would you take?**  
I have a small plastic owl that I take with me when I travel. It was from my mother and I use it for good luck and safety and go flash-point when I can't find it.

**What medicines would accompany you?**  
Various herbal medicines.

**What would you have to eat?**  
Crème brûlée and take-away.

**What would you drink?**  
Champagne.

**Which books would you take to read?**  
I probably wouldn't. There is too much to see, and I could always draw to relax. I do pencil sketches, pen and ink and pen and brush.

**What music would you listen to?**  
Compilation tapes by my friends Pete and Jen who make them as gifts. Diverse and quirky, they include music by Cyd Strawe and Elvis Costello.

**What would you watch on television?**  
The Larry Sanders Show and The Giants baseball team.

**Would you play any games or sport?**  
Oh please.



**What luxury would you take?**  
A huge tiger-stripe terry cloth bathrobe.

**What piece of art would you like to have there?**  
You don't need art there — nature does pretty well.

**Who would be your least welcome guest?**  
Anyone who says, "Do you really make it up?"

**Which newspapers or journals would you read?**  
The *International Herald Tribune*, *Mondo 2000* (speculative fiction about computer technology) and *The Nose*, a San Francisco satire magazine.

**What three things would you leave behind?**  
Two lonely kittens and dirty laundry.

**What three things would you most like to do?**  
1. Go to the Monterey Bay Aquarium and have sex — people will think I'm a humpback whale. 2. Go to the woods and have sex. 3. Sit in a hot bath and think about the Aquarium and the woods and smile a lot.

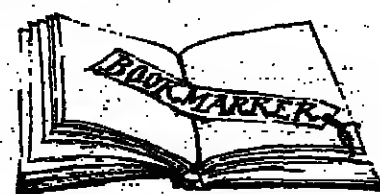
**Who would you send a postcard to?**  
Nobody.

**What souvenir would you bring home?**  
Some fishy gifts from the little store at the Aquarium which sells things like fish socks.

**What would you like to find when you got home?**  
Lots of cheques and a bursting answering machine.

**Interview by**  
Rosanna Greensheet

□ Broadway Stories, a ten-week series of Damon Runyon stories narrated by Mike McShane, begins tonight on Channel 4 at 11.05pm.



### What the papers said:

#### Derwent May's bookbuyers' guide

What were the books that almost got away? By that I mean the books that literary editors only found a little space for at the end of the year, after all the choices had been chosen and the round-ups done and the Christmas stories printed. They might never have been reviewed, if there had not been those gaps to fill, but now their authors can breathe a sigh of relief.

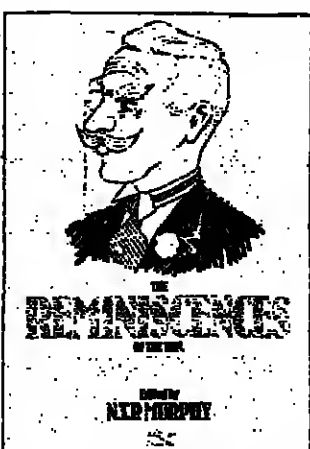
Poetry comes in handy for lit. eds. at such times, and James Fenton's new collection, *Out of Danger* (Penguin, £7.50), got a good many last-minute mentions. Adam Thorpe in *The Observer* called Fenton "a supple tenor charming us with ballads and lyrics" but did not find in him "the bass growl of the titans". In *The Sunday Times*, Sean O'Brien said: "Fenton seems to be arriving at something new — a declamatory, live-action poetry where *realpolitik* and sinister nonsense collide... The book would make a tremendous pamphlet."

A much more enthusiastic Hilary Corke observed in *The Spectator* that "when the same person is a Vietnam war reporter and a master of the modern ballad, one has to struggle slightly to evade the dread epithet 'Renaissance man'"; while Anthony Thwaite in *The Observer* said that Fenton veers "from the most naked love lyrics to hypnotic, cunningly crazy flights of rhetoric" and unreservedly declared it "a wonderful book".

Thwaite also praised D.J. Enright's new volume of poems, *Old Men and Comets* (Oxford, £6.99): "A typical Enright mixture of hilarity and gloom, ready to cheer anyone up with its sardonic nods and becks and wreathed smiles."

Graham Greene got a late look-in. Carcanet Press is mainly a poetry publisher, but last year it brought out a collection of Greene's film writings called *Mornings in the Dark* (edited by David Parkinson, £29.95) which snapped up a few December columns.

Dilys Powell, in *The Daily Telegraph* said that "with the passage of time, it has become apparent that Greene's critical writing about the cinema is almost as important as his



contribution to the art itself". Jenny Turner in *The Guardian* found the bad reviews that Greene gave to some late-1930s films most illuminating. In *The Sunday Times*, Anthony Quinn declared that Greene's film reviews were "among the most trenchant, witty and memorable one is ever likely to read".

A living film-maker, Peter Greenaway, might have been less pleased that *The Sunday Times* found room to review his book *Rosa* (Dis Voir, £12.45). Nick Hornby was not even sure what it was: "Rosa is a Peter Greenaway novel. Or opera. Or stage notes for an opera. Or something." As for its plot, Rosa is a Brazilian composer who is killed, after which "a taxidermist removes the intestines of Rosa's favourite horse, replaces them with Rosa's mistress, and sows [he must have meant 'sews'] the horse up again. The dead Rosa is placed on the horse with a stake up his anus... Why would a grown man wish to spend months of his life writing this book?" asked Hornby, amazed.

David Twiston Davies in *The Sunday Telegraph* picked out another odd book but enjoyed it more. This was *The Reminiscences of the Hon. Calahad Threewood* (Porpoise, £12.99), a Woodhouse sequel by Colonel Norman Murphy which "presurrects the memoirs of Lord Emsworth's brother Gally, which were supposedly consumed by his Lordship's pig in the 1933 Woodhouse classic *Heavy Weather*". "Is it top-hole?" had to be the question, said Twiston Davies — and "up to a point, must be the answer".

Then it's all aboard for Cheers in Wimbledon, a small but funky club 20 minutes south of the Thames, boasting a lively young crowd. We get busy trying to master the art of dancing on a moving double-decker. (The secret is to press your palms against the ceiling and wiggle your bottom about.)

"We do take safety precautions," Mr Chapman insists. "We don't allow any smoking or alcohol on board. We do keep a close eye on everyone, and insurance wise everyone's covered pretty much to unlimited liability."

Showing no signs of flagging the party then chugs up to the swanky Broadway Boulevard in Ealing for another hour of disco madness.

before heading back to Leicester Square and the VIP room of the state of the art Equinox club at lam.

By now limbs are tiring, and the dancing is less frenetic. Sometime after 2am, the chief Alternative Trainspotter emerges beaming, from the dance floor for the last time and announces: "We've had a great time. The bus is what makes the evening. There's such a good atmosphere, so friendly."

And the traders? "We've hired the bus to take us back to Essex where a lot of us live," birthday boy Mark Falco laughs. "This party is just beginning."

□ Party Express details and booking, 071-481 2571. Cost £20-25 a head, book at least two weeks in advance.

al into  
the cry

POWER  
BEST BOAT



# Local interference in the crystal ball

How accurate were the stargazers' and forecasters' predictions for 1993?

Frank Jeffery compares the prophecies with the results and finds some spot-on, but many woefully wide of the mark.

Long live King William?

The soothsayers and the experts will be predicting the events of 1994 soon. But how did they do with their forecasts for the year just past?

Those who stuck to vague prognostications did about as well as most of us could have done by intelligent guesswork. Those who did not stick to the indefinite and imprecise came unstuck.

The royal family is the source of more prophecy from the stargazers and the professional royal watchers than any other British institution.

Old Moore — six astrologers who now wear the stary mantle of Dr Francis Moore, physician, herbalist and astrologer at the court of Charles II, whose first Almanac was printed in 1697 — went in for a few safe bets in his 1992 edition. The Prince of Wales would make a controversial speech... unless constitutional reform was pursued the country could be in trouble... a stressful alignment in the heavens could bring a public row in the royal family — that sort of thing.

Elsewhere, a woman described as the Princess of Wales's astrologer predicted that "Prince William will make an excellent king". It may be a little time before the accuracy of that one is known, although two astrologers called Rodgers and Kovan, writing in the *Astrological Journal*, were more positive.

The Princess of Wales, they said, would divorce within two years and remarry in 2001. In the same year, Prince William would become king.

A prediction by Joan Quigley — Nancy Reagan's astrologer, whose advice was supposed to have affected White House decisions — that a love child of Prince Charles would be revealed is still awaiting confirmation.

In *Best* magazine, Barbara Dunn was not taking too great a risk when she predicted: "The Prince and Princess of Wales are most unlikely to have any more children." Ms Dunn also thought "the Queen would be well advised to abdicate in 1993". She might have been so advised, but so far she has not done anything about it.

There are plenty of royal predictions from the non-astrologers. David Cannadine, a professor of history at the University of Columbia, New York, thought 1993 would

be an "annus even more horribilis" for the royal family, and also predicted the debate on "the purpose, function and future of the monarchy" would intensify. He was right there.

Ever hopeful, at the end of 1992 Tony Benn reintroduced his Bill to remove the Queen as head of state. Dennis (Beast of Bolsover) Skinner thought the end of the monarchy "could be in sight". Arthur Scargill felt reasonable jobs in society should be found for the royals, "unemployment figures permitting".

In *The Times*, Ludovic Kennedy suggested a longer timescale: in perhaps 15 years, he thought, the country might "release royalty from their unnatural and unnecessary burden".

Sixty-one per cent of *Sun* readers, according to a telephone poll the newspaper conducted, wanted the monarchy to be scrapped.

The comedian Max Bygraves predicted he would end up in the

Tower for singing, to the tune of "They're Changing Guard at Buckingham Palace", these words: "They're changing wives at Buckingham Palace/Buckingham Palace is just like *Dallas*."

Harold Brooks-Baker, the publisher of *Burke's Peerage*, issued a stream of predictions in 1992 about the royal family, which changed as

things developed, from "Prince Charles and Princess Diana will do many things to prove their marriage stronger" to a suggestion in December 1992 that divorce plans for the couple would be announced in a few months.

The weather was naturally the other big forecasting area and the Meteorological Office predicted that its 24-hour forecasts would increase in accuracy, through a combination of new technology and developing skills in using it. They now claim an 85 per cent accuracy record on the daily forecast and a figure edging towards that for the five-day version.

They export seasonal forecasts — spring, summer, autumn, winter — to places such as Brazil, and get good results, but they will not try this long-range stuff at home. Our British weather is too capricious.

Amateur forecasters were less inhibited. Weather fore-casters at Slough in Gloucestershire predicted a hard 1992-93 winter



Sally Lennox (left) at the Meteorological Office examines the output from the long-range forecasting computer. Others (right) prefer to rely on an onion's skin

because some of the swans arrived early at the wildfowl sanctuary.

Yorkshire's countryman predictor Bill Foggett also expected a hard 1992-93 winter because onion skins were thicker than usual. "Onion skin very thin, mild winter coming in," quoted old Bill. In fact last winter was not a hard one at all, but those onions probably are not at all embarrassed. Too thick-skinned.

The boffins at the Meteorological Office do not sneer at these old ways of foretelling the weather. They have made a study of country weather lore to see if there is anything in it. But their conclusion, one of their experts tells me, is that you cannot set much store by them. Sometimes they are right, sometimes wrong. "About the same as chance."

The Met men are still intrigued, though, by the records of another amateur, George Nicholson of Teddington, which showed that Thursday is the wettest day of the week. "A quirk in the figures," said the professionals. All the same, it might be as well to make sure you know where your umbrella is for Thursdays in 1994.

One repeated prediction, from assorted estate agents, that house prices would rise significantly in 1993 has come true only in the greater parts of central London, where gazumping is beginning to reappear.

John Major predicted in 1992 that 1993 would be the year "of helping your neighbour". The cynical might say that has come true because the Government is less keen on that sort of thing.

Among its end-of-1992 predictions, *The Independent on Sunday* said that at some time in the next half-million years a giant asteroid would wipe out life on earth.

It did not happen in 1993, but the newspaper still has 499,999 years to be proved right.



Dennis Skinner (left) and Tony Benn (right) foretold the end of the monarchy. The Queen (centre) might have considered it, but took no action



Max Bygraves (top left) tried to sing his way into the Tower of London. The Princess of Wales (right) "will remarry in 2001"

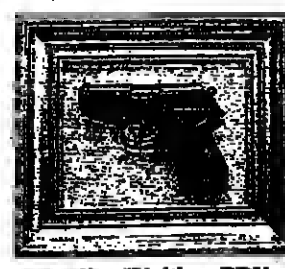


RUSSELL BOYCE

DAVID JONES



Model bust of Sean Connery



Replica Walther PPK

£250 — just one of many in Mr Worrall's collection. "I have about 750 original film posters," he says. Yes — but there were only 16 films.

"Variations," he replies. Where to hunt for all these glories is fairly obvious, but so diverse is the field that a fair deal of time is required: the die-cast models (there were about 40 Corgi toys in all, including "variations") turn up quite regularly at toy fairs, as do jigsaws and other games.

The first editions may be found in antiquarian book shops and fairs, but their values are well known, so hargains are scarce: avoid anything not in the dust wrapper, with the exception of the extremely rare limited edition of *On Her Majesty's Secret Service* which was issued without one. Film posters, stills, magazines and programmes could turn up just about anywhere that sells printed material.

Despite the vast, all-embracing nature of Mr Worrall's collection, he still regularly trawls the car-boot sales, jumble sales and toy fairs: he never knows when he might find that 1960s James Bond attaché case complete with concealed daggers (as in *From Russia With Love*), which, he thinks,

would fit very nicely beside his rare American James Bond Road Race set — "a truly marvellous sort of Scalextric, with moulded scenery, all the cars, characters, everything." Mr Worrall's six-year-old son has not been told that his father possesses so wondrous a creation.

But for most diehard Bond fans, that old DB5 remains the most potent symbol of all, and any of the four original cars made for the film is the ultimate 007 collectable: Mr Worrall, you will not be surprised to hear, spent six years researching a book about it. "After *Goldfinger*, they stripped off the gadgets off the absolute original and just sold it on the forecourt as a second-hand car. The person who bought it realised what he had and put all the gadgets back again. It could be worth \$1 million dollars, or more like two or three." Most of us will have to settle for the made-up Airfix kit.

JOSEPH CONNOLLY

Further details of the James Bond Collectors Club from Dave Worrall, PO Box 1570, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 5YH. The Most Famous Car in the World, by Dave Worrall (Solo Publishing, £12.99). The James Bond Fan Club archive, 0483 756 007.

SUCH is the nature of auctions that often nobody, not even the auctioneers, knows what is coming up. Sarah Jane Checkland tracked down the following highlights of the forthcoming year.

**JANUARY:** Phillips, 101 Bond Street, London W1 (071-629 6602), kicks off with two celebrity items at its fine silver sale on January 21. A Victorian christening set, engraved with the cipher of Queen Victoria and a monogram, possibly of her eldest son, Albert, is estimated at £1,200 to £1,500, while a French gold snuff box given by Napoleon Bonaparte to one of his generals is estimated at up to £15,000. For doctored owners, the auctioneers offer two Victorian silver dog-collars, estimated at up to £250 each.

Sotheby's starts the year by focusing on its New York operation, judging by its first three sales there of European works of art, Old Master drawings and, on January 15, the Old Master collection of the late American real-estate magnate, Peter Jay Sharp.

This last will include works by Canaletto (a pair of capriccio, or imaginary landscapes, at £15 million), Claude Lorrain (a landscape at up to £450,000) and Rubens ("The Adoration of the Magi" at £400,000).

**FEBRUARY:** There is sauce for sale on February 17 when Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (071-581 7611), offers the Bamforth Archive, comprising art work from the once-famous, now-defunct Lancashire seaside postcard publishers. Thrills include the image of a female customs officer looking under a Scotsman's kilt and saying, "Just looking for concealed weapons, Sir", and lots of naughty captions referring to "my little Willie". The previously unseen archive traces the history of this quintessentially British art form from its conception at the turn of the century up to the 1970s when the nude-photograph postcard started taking over. The 3,000 lots are expected to raise £20,000.

Fancy wielding one of the spoons, saucepans or gravy-splattered cookbooks once used by the cookery writer Elizabeth

## Saleroom diary

Bonhams, Montpelier Street, London W1 (071-629 6602), counters on February 9 with its "pulp fiction" sale, offering original artwork for such gripping yarns as *White Slave Traffic* and *Me and My Ghoul*. Estimates range from £200 to £300. And for aspiring illustrators and caption writers, Bonhams also holds a special Vintage Fountain Pen sale on February 25, where it will attempt to break its own record for a pen of £14,500.

On February 24, one man's private air-force museum will be dispersed to the four winds, when 500 miniature models lovingly made by the late eccentric William Osmond Doylend come under the hammer at Christie's. Each comes complete with its own tiny aircraft hanger and aeronautical engineers.

Fancy wielding one of the spoons, saucepans or gravy-splattered cookbooks once used by the cookery writer Elizabeth

David? More than 100 items are on offer at Phillips on February 22 at £20 upwards. Who knows, they might even improve the buyers' cooking.

**MARCH:** When last auctioned in 1888, Sir Edwin Landseer's monumental painting *The Red Stag* fetched the then breathtaking sum of £4,456. On March 25, Christie's hopes to sell the painting — which shows a royal stag standing among his hands in dramatic Highland scenery — for at least £750,000. Auction experts believe it to be the most important work by the artist to be sold since Sir Thomas Dewar, head of the well-known firm of whisky distillers, bought the famous *The Monarch of the Glen* in 1916, and turned it into his most famous advertising image. Step forward Japanese whisky makers of today.

Barbra Streisand has been collecting Art Nouveau and Art Deco for decades. On March 3 and 4, the film star off-loads much of it at Christie's New York in an effort "to

simplify her lifestyle". Highlights include a Tiffany "Cobweb" lamp, estimated up to £750,000, and Tamara de Lempicka's *Adam and Eve*, one of the great icons of this artist's work (£600,000).

**FAIRS:** From February 15 to 20, quality and quantity can be had at the Olympia Fine Art fair at the Olympia exhibition halls, Hammersmith, west London (071-495 4016).

From May 4 to 10, the British Antique Dealers' Association will hold its second annual event at the Duke of York's Headquarters, King's Road, London SW7 (information from: 071-351 3321) and open only to members of the country's top association.

Best of all will be the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, London W1 (organisers: 071-495 8743) from June 9 to 18, when top dealers from all over the world will attempt to lure the world's richest buyers with their wares. This year's innovation is the abolition of deadlines for certain categories of antiques.

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# LONDON INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW '94



Susan MacDonald checks on the progress of three more members of the Times marathon teams — including a late substitute

#### Dr Virginia Craig, 36



"It's difficult to fit in running with my work — it means pushing myself out into the cold and dark at eight o'clock at night — but I'm glad I entered and was chosen for *The Times* team because I certainly feel fitter. I run in town because it's less isolated, and have bought some luminous clothing to make sure drivers can see me in the dark. I didn't take regular exercise before, but was on my feet most of the day and took hour-long walks once or twice a week. I had a bad setback in the autumn through running in the wrong type of shoes. My first pair were too high at the ankles and I damaged both Achilles tendons, then in a new pair I twisted my ankle. Altogether I lost about five weeks of training and missed *The Times* run in September. But now, with shoes out away at the back and following Mel Batty's novice group schedule, I can run seven miles. I've been trying the fartlek (speedplay) but haven't been getting on very well. However I am progressing. I have always wanted to do a marathon, but really no-one in their right mind would do it unless they were motivated. Having put my name forward, I have now been roped in and will be running for the Leukaemia Research Fund, who also fund my work in haematology. (Virginia Craig is a member of Chris Brasher's team)

SMOKING	HEART RATE
Non-smoker	71 Acceptable range: 52-90
WEIGHT TO HEIGHT	LUNG FUNCTION
(Body mass index) 19.9 Average Acceptable range: 18.5-23.6	(FEV1/FVC ratio) 88% Acceptable range: 75%+
PHYSICAL FITNESS	WALKING TEST
(Oxygen consumption) 19% fitter than average An athletic person may be 50-60% fitter than average	12 mins Better than average Average time 8-10 minutes

#### Alan Coton, 45



"I began jogging by running round the block, gradually slowly to bigger blocks. I'm not an athlete but I found that running gave me a chance to think and reflect. Then I began to think about doing the marathon and when I read *The Times* and saw the chance to do so, I wrote in. I'm not really following the training programme, although I take in and appreciate what Mel Batty is saying. I don't do test times but seem to amble on whatever the distance. Since I became a team member I've completed four half marathons — best time 1hr 55min — and have lost about 10lbs off my 150lb weight. Now I go on three four-mile outings a week and on Sunday, an excursion of around 20 miles. The long-distance running is awful work, all foot pads and vaseline. I've tried interval running, I'm sure it works, but I find the stopping and starting boring. Winter running is hard, I don't really know what to wear. At first I think I am really hot, but on long runs you get colder than you think — sometimes my gloves freeze up. I can't really see many benefits in being fitter and healthier, except that I can keep up with my 14-year-old son at football. Why do I keep on? Because I filled in the entry postcard and I always keep my word! (Alan Coton is a member of Chris Brasher's team)

SMOKING	HEART RATE
Non-smoker	74 Acceptable range: 52-90
WEIGHT TO HEIGHT	LUNG FUNCTION
(Body mass index) 26.3 Worse than average Acceptable range: 18.5-23.6	(FEV1/FVC ratio) 78% Acceptable range: 75%+
PHYSICAL FITNESS	WALKING TEST
(Oxygen consumption) 5% fitter than average An athletic person may be 50-60% fitter than average	15 mins Better than average Average time 12 minutes

#### Carol Bryan, 39



Kate Taungs, originally a member of Mel Batty's team, has dropped out and her place has been taken by Carol Bryan who headed the *The Times* reserve team. She describes herself as a not very fit mother of four children. "My husband is a half-marathon runner, many of our friends are runners and I became bored to tears listening to talk about running and standing on the sidelines, so last summer I decided to try it for myself. I ran 300 yards home from the local shop and was completely out of breath. When I saw that *The Times* was forming teams for the marathon, I wrote in asking to be a member. Although I wasn't chosen I kept up the running, following the training schedule for beginners. I can now run for an hour — covering about eight miles. I am slightly asthmatic and at first I took my inhaler with me, but I don't need it any more. I don't really do the speed running although I do go faster for the last five minutes of my run — but that is because it is downhill and the neighbours are watching. I'm not going for speed on the big day — just to finish. I haven't lost weight, but I am certainly trimmer. I can zip up skirts that were too small before. I also feel fitter, I haven't had a serious cold or the flu since I started running. (Carol Bryan is a member of Mel Batty's team)

SMOKING	HEART RATE
Non-smoker	68 Acceptable range: 52-90
WEIGHT TO HEIGHT	LUNG FUNCTION
(Body mass index) 21.3 Average Acceptable range: 18.5-23.6	(FEV1/FVC ratio) 78% Acceptable range: 75%+
PHYSICAL FITNESS	WALKING TEST
(Oxygen consumption) 21% fitter than average An athletic person may be 50-60% fitter than average	15 mins Better than average Average time 13 minutes

## The genteel flight

Badminton may be stuck with an outdated image, but it is a sport for all, says

Steven Downes

Banalore and shuttlecock they used to call it. Like an old-time comic double act. Even today, the associations with badminton are essentially genteel: all church halls and crisp, starched whites.

If you look for badminton at your church hall these days, though, you are liable to be disappointed. And as for gentility, forget it. "Speed, agility, strength, stamina, skill, deception... especially deception — it's got the lot," says Gill Clark, a former world doubles No 1 with Gillian Gilks, who now runs the Wimbledon Squash and Badminton Club in southwest London.

Ms Clark's description may be a bit lost on the average club shuttlecock player. Like most racket sports, badminton reeks of affable sociability. The game is still the thing, where a friendly mixed doubles is more common than win-at-all-costs singles, and where rallies seem to be prolonged out of common courtesy.

Badminton tends not to be vicious: the rackets are lighter and therefore easier to use than tennis or squash, and the shuttle (the plastic flight) can move rapidly but never too fast for even the most modest of players.

Badminton's development can be traced back to the last century, when the British rulers used the game as a means of passing the idle hours in India. Some people believe that these roots in the past are holding the sport back: image is all, and badminton has yet to catch up with the development of other sports during the past decade. "It's a shame, but most people do still think of badminton as a church-hall sport," Ms Clark says.

Ms Clark, with Nick Ponting, won an outstanding bronze medal in the mixed doubles at the world championships in Birmingham in June, ten years on from when she last collected a similar award. At 32, she is approaching the end of a long and successful professional playing career, but is totally involved with her sport as the chairman of the international players' federation.

At Ms Clark's level of play, badminton is dynamic and challenging. It also now has a professional international circuit. "In places like Malaysia, they pack 14,000 spectators into one stadium. They cancel football matches because everyone goes to badminton," she says. Even in this country, badminton ranks among the most popular participant sports: some five million are estimated to play regularly, according to the Sports Council. Mostly, they play in ad-hoc doubles games, with little or

no contact with organised clubs. "Twenty, even ten years ago, numerous clubs played in local church halls and small venues," Ms Clark says. "But as these have closed, more and more people have gone to sports centres. It's so easy to turn up with three friends and have a game of doubles."

While the centres have welcomed players' court fees with open arms, badminton clubs have noticed declining membership. But those who bypass the club system, Ms Clark says, are missing something.

There are clubs based at most sports centres, offering a social side to the sport. As well as providing coaching, clubs offer a constant variety of opponents, whose standard may be chosen to reflect your level of skill.

Ms Clark believes that for the recreational player looking for a brisk winter sport, badminton has advantages over tennis — smaller courts mean that "you do not spend all your time picking up the ball".

The demands of the game are such that even novices can play enough reasonable rallies to work up a bit of a sweat, while it is gentle enough for all physiques and ages to get something from a game.

● The Badminton Association of England (0908 568322), the Scottish Badminton Union (041-445 1218), the Northern Ireland Sports Council (0223 351222) and the Welsh Badminton Union (0222 222082) can provide details of your local club. Sports centres may also be able to tell you when your local club meets. The basic kit is shirt, shorts, shoes and racket: a reasonable beginner's racket costs £30.



The badminton shuttle moves rapidly but never too fast

## Strip show in the gale



CHRISTINE WHEELER

WHATEVER happened to global warming? As I recall we were practically guaranteed semi-tropical summers, palm-covered Peninsulas, pick-your-own mangoes, and — most important of all — warm, frost-free winters. There was a downside, of course — Great White sharks basking off Torquay, and East Anglia submerged under rising sea levels, but sacrifices had to be made for the greater good. Haven't heard much about this lately, have we? Which is why I am jogging through freezing fog, on icy paths and snowy fields, trying to avoid pneumonia.

My social circle includes just one person who has ever laced up trainers in anger. He assured me, while we sunbathed last June, that I would positively embrace running in winter. Cool weather equalled comfortable jogging. Right on the button there. It is very cool. It is downright perishing.

Zero temperatures present a sartorial dilemma. I need to keep warm while I negotiate the main road between home and park during my five-minute start-up walk and at

the end of the run, especially when the wind screams across the grass straight from the Russian steppes. Experience shows this requires at least three layers of winocette — minimum. But, well into the training session, things get seriously muggy inside these bundles of cosy clothing. I can't very well leave a trail of discarded leisure wear in my wake, and am therefore perfecting my technique of stripping off, without breaking stride, and tying ever increasing layers round my waist, trying not to rip off my earphones and unplug the Walkman.

The "proper joggers", ie, the intense young men with very large feet, don't seem to have this problem: they are still wearing a flimsy singlet and shorts, plus a thick pair of gloves as a passing nod to the elements. This is odd. I find gloves strangely constricting and don't wear them (could I have claustrophobic hands?).

I'm told that runners in the know wear the cotton linings of washing-up gloves. Please! I am already being seen in public wearing what some

people might very well describe as an anorak: I do draw the line at yellow rubber gloves. Anyway, my hands always stay warm. Before I took up this training business, my fingers and toes were permanently one degree above frostbite, whatever the room temperature.

ally did leap up and down and punch the air, miraculously I had enough energy and breath left to celebrate.

I'm always being asked how far I run per session. Not having the faintest notion, but being curious, I presented my scale map of the park with my December route marked out to a military chum who, using his very expensive taxpayer-subsidised training, calculated that I had travelled three and six-eighths miles in 35 minutes.

And what did that tell me? Nothing. Was this very commendable, very average or simply hopeless? On the one hand, at this pace it would take me a week to complete the course, unless the rules allow competitors to bivouac for the night en route and continue in easy stages over a period of days. I suppose using the above benchmark, I had progressed to nearly eight miles by mid-December, or not. A fruitless — and somewhat alarming — exercise that I won't repeat.

The extra incentive to get out this month was the news that Tom Cruise and his personal trainer were sighted

jogging round my lake. So I keep alert, ready for the briefest glimpse. The slight worry is that the endorphins now surging into my brain may indeed have unhinged me: it's not the super-mega Hollywood stardom I want to meet, but his personal trainer. Much more useful.

Being a known jogger has its downside at Christmas on the prey front. Although I dropped spectacularly heavy hints that I was still in the market for scent, silk and sapphires (not necessarily in that order), I was bracing myself for the inevitable jogger's cookbook, joke book, diary or video.

I fully intended to break out of the magic family circle over the holiday. As soon as *The Great Escape*, Mr Blobby or any small child with a large percussion instrument came within my orbit, I misquoted Mel Batty: "You are in the presence of the physical elite. Christmas lunch is for wimps."

That stunned everybody long enough for me to make it through the front door and disappear for a Yuletide-free jog.

## All laced up for the last leg



The blessed relief of getting your feet up after another gruelling training session — "this feeling of temporary lassitude is quite normal"

Mel Batty gives his training tips for the final pull towards April's London Marathon

The new year brings extra urgency to your training: the holiday festivities are ending and the NutraSweet London Marathon suddenly seems very close.

There are in fact only 15 weeks before the race and allowing for the taper in the training, just before the end, this means you have only a little more than three months of solid training ahead.

Provided you have followed our monthly schedules, you should already have the sound basis from which to escalate your training. Now is the time to build up your fitness.

The weekly long runs are the foundation of your preparation and will certainly take their toll. After running for an hour and a half, all you will want to do for the rest of the day is to put your feet up, drink lots of cups of tea and eat some easily digestible carbohydrates.

This feeling of temporary lassitude is quite normal. The tiredness is similar to, but less acute than, that you will feel after the marathon itself.

Take your rest days during the week either side of your long runs. Try to have at least some of your long sessions on soft surfaces. You are less likely to injure yourself.

I cannot stress often enough that you must have the proper footwear. Use at least two

pairs of running shoes alternately and get an accurate diagnosis when you have an injury problem. Listen to your body: if you have a nagging strain, ease off the training. As you have your long runs, think about your style. Do not hunch your shoulders. Keep your head up, but still be careful to look where your feet are landing. Drop your hands occasionally to relax your arms.

On your fartlek (speedplay) sessions, make certain that your faster running is sufficiently prolonged. You must have some spells of at least eight minutes' running to condition yourself to the sort of pace you will need to complete a marathon.

Fartlek is not the occasional sprint interspersed by jogging. You must have periods of sustained speed, faster than your steady running but nowhere as quick as a sprint. At the end of each faster run, you should be relieved to be able to jog for a short while. If you run frequently on the same circuit

of parkland or roads, you should be able to discover a stretch of the course which will take you about eight minutes to run. Aiming at a particular landmark is less mentally frustrating than looking at your watch every 50 often to see how many more minutes you must run. Finally, look in one of the excellent athletics magazines on the market and find a convenient half marathon about a month before the London Marathon on April 17.

Sometime in March, you should try a half marathon to get used to the sort of pace you will need on the big day.

Schedules for January:  
Advanced group  
Week 1: 1x90-minute run; 2x60-minute runs; 2x40-minute fartleks.  
Week 2: 1x1 hour 40-minute run; 2x60-minute runs; 2x40-minute fartleks.  
Week 3: 1x1 hour 45-minute run; 2x60-minute runs; 2x45-minute fartleks.  
Week 4: 1x1 hour 50-minute run; 2x60-minute runs;

2x45-minute fartleks.  
Joggers' schedule  
Week 1: 1x65-minute jog; 2x40-minute jogs; 1x35-minute fartlek.  
Week 2: 1x75-minute jog; 2x40-minute jogs; 1x35-minute fartlek.  
Week 3: 1x80-minute jog; 2x45-minute jogs; 1x35-minute fartlek.  
Week 4: 1x85-minute jog; 2x50-minute jogs; 1x35-minute fartlek.

JOHN GOODBODY

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Peter Barnard wonders what it is all for



A 19th-century French condom — even they have their own week

The rottweiler has had a rotten press and most unfairly so. In my opinion much of this has to do with anti-German sentiment, Rottweilers being a town in southwest Germany from which these lovable animals are said to originate.

The height of anti-rottweiler rottenness was reached in 1992, when the Government rushed through the Dangerous Dogs Act, which empowered posses of armed civil servants to roam the country shooting rottweilers on sight.

Those that were not shot were forced to wear muzzles, a shameful development: how would you like to have to go around Tesco's with a cage stuck to your face?

Inevitably, there has been a backlash against this draconian legislation. First, in mid-1993, came the Irrate Rottweilers Association (IRA), set up by a small group of rottweiler owners based in a Hackney tower block, tower blocks (and caravan sites) being the natural habitat of the rottweiler. The IRA's slogan — negotiation not legislation — quickly found an echo with fair-minded people and membership increased apace.

An advertising campaign in December (a rottweiler is for life, not

just for Christmas) further raised the animal's profile and sales of Christmas cards featuring a rottweiler rampant, but smiling, raised thousands of pounds for the cause.

The money will be used in the coming year for the IRA's most ambitious project so far: National Rottweiler Week. This will occur in August, rottweilers being at their most lovable in warm weather. Another reason for the choice of date is that the second week of August is the only week in the year not already booked as the week of something else, although two days in the week are taken up with the Day of... something or other. But it is felt that a Rottweiler Week can see off a Something Day as it might a miniature poodle.

There will be those who have read the above and thought: he is making this up. As if I would. As if I would make up the Year of the Chinese Bear (which 1994 is), organised by the International Fund for Animal Welfare to draw our notoriously fickle attention to the fact that Chinese bears are used by the Chinese to make medicines and aphrodisiacs which "can be produced synthetically".

It happens that I am all for the Chinese bear, although I suspect he



The much maligned rottweiler has its week in August, when the weather is warm, a chance to show off the sweet side of its nature

is no less prone to eating people than the rottweiler. But I doubt whether giving him a year will do him much good.

• Ditto the condom. It is an odd sense of priorities that gives the condom a mere week (in September) while the Chinese bear gets a whole year. Of course, condoms are not endangered, nor could they be

accused of being much in the way of an aphrodisiac, though the flavoured ones... perhaps this line of enquiry is best abandoned.

In favour of eyes, something we can all agree about. The British Council's Eye Safety Week in February is a classic of the genre — designed to be, er, eye-catching for that person for whom such Days,

Weeks and Years are a godsend: the newspaper picture editor.

That is why Eye Safety Week involves a competition to find "Britain's most beautiful eyes". If the British Safety Council wants my advice, it needs four finalists, of whom at least one is famous. The photocall will produce a handy five-column picture, not very deep,

showing four sets of eyes in colour. Hold the photocall in the morning and editors desperate to fill those early news pages will thank you evermore.

The trouble is that within two minutes of reading the caption, most people will have forgotten what the picture was in aid of. The chances of Eye Safety Week doing

much good for the safety of anyone's eyes are close to zilch. And such weeks can work against the cause. I spent four years in Singapore, which every year had a National Courtesy Week. It needed one as Singaporeans regard courtesy as a luxury. What National Courtesy Week did for Singaporeans was to make some of them courteous for a week. The rest of the year, forget it.

Not that Singapore can teach us anything. You will remember Smile for Safety Week. Oh come on: it was only in December. It is only in December this year, too, so we have 11 months of unsafe scowling left to us before we need to rearrange the mouth features.

The idea of Smile for Safety Week, apart from giving a committee something to commit about, is to "reduce stress by getting us to smile more". It is organised by our old friends from an earlier paragraph, the British Safety Council (they of the Eyes). In fact, only the aforementioned picture editors stand between the British Safety

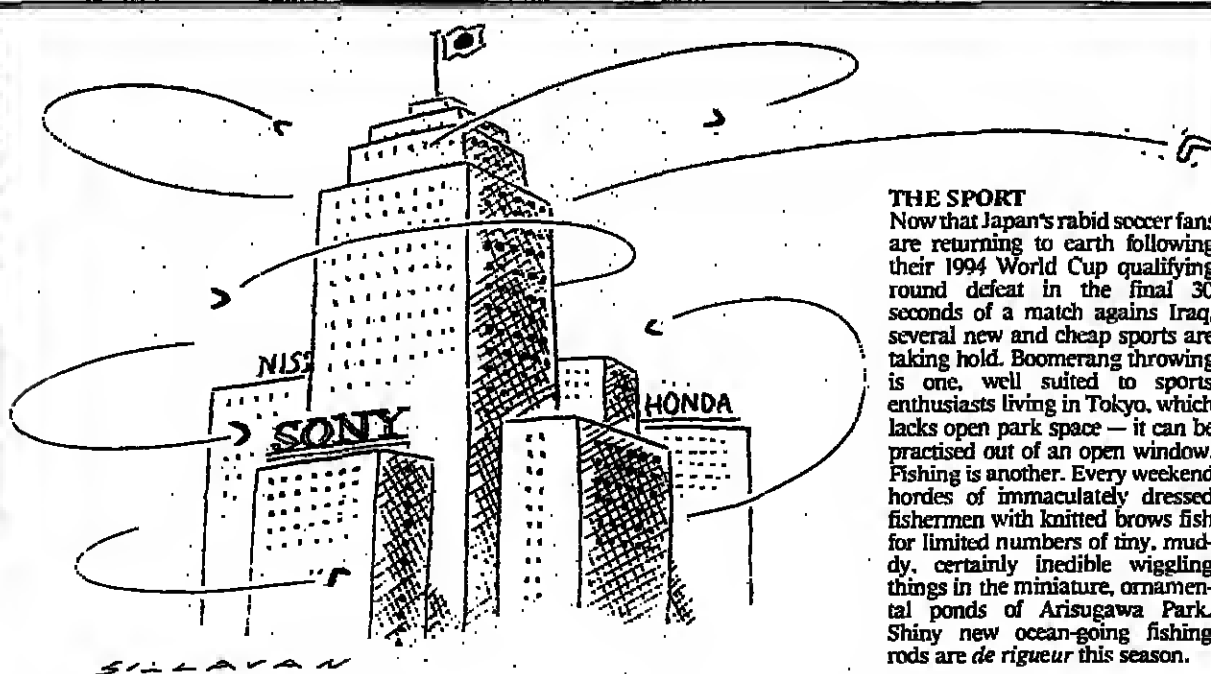
It is an odd sense of priorities that gives the condom a mere week while the Chinese bear gets a whole year

Council and an agreed bid under which Eyes and Smiles would merge to produce one slightly deeper five-column picture instead of two. There is of course a competition to find Britain's Brightest Smile.

I am left feeling like the man in the New York bar: if this is happy hour, why am I so miserable? Do we really need to be told when to smile, when to care about Chinese bears, when to care about toxic waste (Greenpeace, the whole year), when to worry about the clubbing to death of Canadian seals (International Fund for Animal Welfare, ditto), when to ruminate on the state of the family (United Nations Year of)?

Please, spare me this tripe. This is the nanny state gone berserk, this is pure attention-seeking. I am already working on something for 1995, which will have National Nothing Much Week. There will be monthly meetings of the Nothing Much Week committee and there will be press releases announcing nothing much. During the week itself nothing much will happen, with pictures.

Do try to enter into the spirit of the thing.



Tokyo

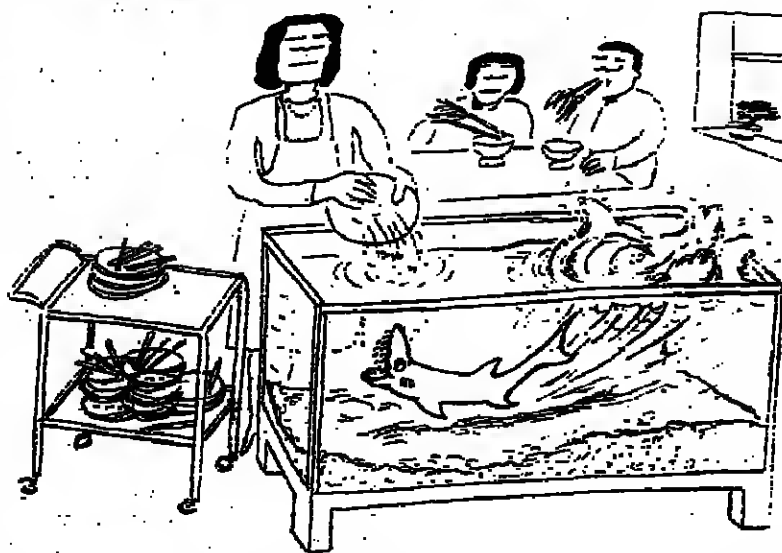
## MODES

**THE SLOGAN**  
Instant ersatz sophistication for Japanese and cheap entertainment for foreigners is the Japanese slogan. Found on T-shirts, jackets, carrier bags and teenagers' lips, my favourite was spotted on a leather jacket: "Vigorous Throw-Up — since 1973". Second favourite, found emblazoned on a pink floral carrier bag: "Primitive Cool Collective Heterosexual Scenario, and Turn the Women Red". Explanations offered at owner's discretion. Or not.

**THE GIFT**  
When inspiration and yen run out in "za giftu shoezon" (the gift season) consult Kenji Kawakami, a man with an inventive brain, in demand for more creations along the lines of his celebrated "Nod Pod". To cope with a wicked hangover, a missed breakfast or a lost seat on the train, well equipped commuters unfold a nod pod, a tripod-based device designed like a music stand at the base and a chin rest at the top. Keeps "chins up and allows precious extra time for escape to the land of nod. Table-top versions are available for company parties and watching Japanese television.

**THE SOUND**  
"Girlfriend". Australia's answer to Bananarama, on tour in Japan this month has been an astonishing hit. Performing without noticeable musical talent, the four blonde beach belles have captured the hearts and wallets of legions of Japanese teenagers for their willingness to sing in Japanese. The crash course in lyric learning parrot fashion evidently did not include translations or pronunciations. A tour manager eventually pointed out that their lusty declarations of "lover" had become declarations on the subject of "funeral parlours".

**THE FINAL WISH**  
Billionaire Ryohei Saito stirred fury in the art world when he declared that his Van Gogh and Renoir oil paintings should be cremated with his dead body. He later withdrew the statement and told the foreign press they were "unable to understand Japanese humour".



**THE PET**  
Tokyo households do not really cater for pets. Turtles risk ending up in a New Year soup and goldfish are passé. The answer is the bonsai shark, baby white-tips that fit a standard goldfish tank and appreciate any table scraps.

JOANNA PITMAN

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# What price bricks and mortar in 1994?

After the boom and bust property cycles of recent years, Rachel Kelly predicts that house prices really are set to rise again

JANUARY, and time for crystal ball gazing into this year's property market. Will 1994 be the year that the market leaps back into full-blooded life?

One answer to this question is provided by the experts. Banks, building societies, builders, estate agents have all put out their research and forecast levels of house price rises next year. Here is a sample of their views.

John Wriglesworth, housing market analyst at the city brokers UBS Phillips & Drew, forecasts a 7 per cent rise. He has been more right than wrong in the past. While everyone else forecast house price rises in January 1992, Dr Wriglesworth was the only analyst to predict the falls that ensued. Lloyds bank suggests a 4.9 per cent rise. Charterhouse financial analysts predict a 5 per cent rise. Farley estate agents suggest a rise of between 5 and 10 per cent.

But the whole notion that it is possible to make such precise forecasts has been largely discredited. The Halifax no longer publishes its house price forecasts, and now prefers to identify patterns and trends rather than spot-on figures.

According to the figures, the property market follows regular cycles. Each cycle lasts for between seven and eight years: for the first three years, prices rise; then they settle down again for the next four.

The first cycle began in 1970; the second in 1977; the third in 1985. If these patterns are accurate, we have lived through the down-turn. 1994 sees the start of cycle four and a rosy market.

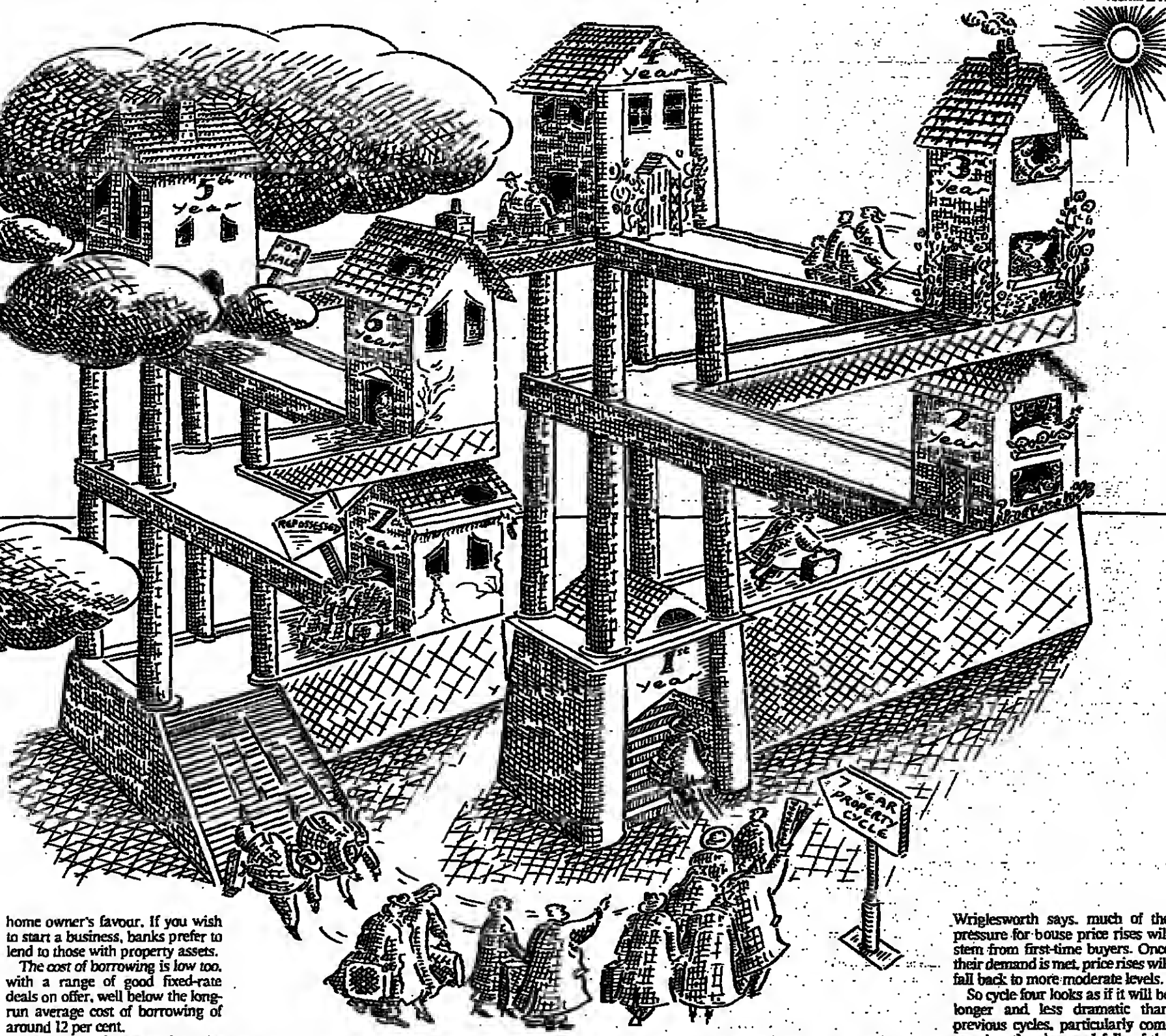
First-time buyers will be the most significant players in cycle four.

They are crucial to a recovery, since they bring new cash to the bottom of the ladder. Houses are now relatively cheap for first-time buyers if one calculates average earnings, mortgage rates and house prices. In 1991, the TSB calculates it cost first-time buyers 67 per cent of their income to buy; by 1992 this had fallen to 38 per cent; now it costs just 26 per cent.

Now the November budget is safely behind us, and the diminution of the MIRAS limit is outweighed by lower interest rates, first-timers in work are enjoying rising incomes. Unemployment is expected to fall and, more importantly for those in work, the fear of it is receding.

Nearly 200,000 potential buyers are thought to have been holding back from house purchase, according to Dr Wriglesworth, but surveys show that the commitment to the idea of home ownership remains strong. More than 80 per cent expect to be home owners, a Council of Mortgage Lenders survey found last year. A poll by Mori for Roof magazine, published by the housing charity Shelter in December, revealed that 78 per cent of people questioned would prefer to buy rather than to rent.

Among existing home owners, 1994 is unlikely to find many deciding to sell up and rent instead. Property remains the love of most Englishmen, as other CML surveys show. Tax is still stacked in the



home owner's favour. If you wish to start a business, banks prefer to lend to those with property assets.

The cost of borrowing is low too, with a range of good fixed-rate deals on offer, well below the long-run average cost of borrowing of around 12 per cent.

And signs indicate that the market has already cheered up. Although sales in October and September remained flat, say the Nationwide and the Halifax, that was partly caused by budget uncertainty. A post-budget survey by the Alliance & Leicester shows that more than three-quarters of those polled were unaffected by changes

to Miras, and that 8 per cent planned to move to catch the lowest interest rates for 25 years.

There are more good signs. The Halifax recorded a small rise in November house prices of 0.2 per cent. Figures so far for 1993 show that mortgage approvals to the end of September are up 5 per cent on

1992. If property sales continued as at recent monthly rates they will have finished the year around 2 per cent higher than in 1992, says UBS. And agents are complaining of a shortage of suitable houses for sale in the South.

It is here that the recovery in prices is likely to begin. The

negative equity trap has caught owners in the Southeast most tightly. This will reduce supply to first-time buyers, as those trapped with negative equity are unwilling to sell. A shortage of supply should provoke some rise in prices.

However, the recovery is unlikely to be 1980s-style. As Dr

Wriglesworth says, much of the pressure for house price rises will stem from first-time buyers. Once their demand is met, price rises will fall back to more moderate levels.

So cycle four looks as if it will be longer and less dramatic than previous cycles, particularly compared to the rises and falls of the 1980s. First-timers should move fast to get on to the ladder while it remains a buyers' market. Those wishing to trade up should also move quickly: the more expensive houses have recorded the largest falls. Snap up any remaining bargains before the 1994 cycle is well and truly upon us.

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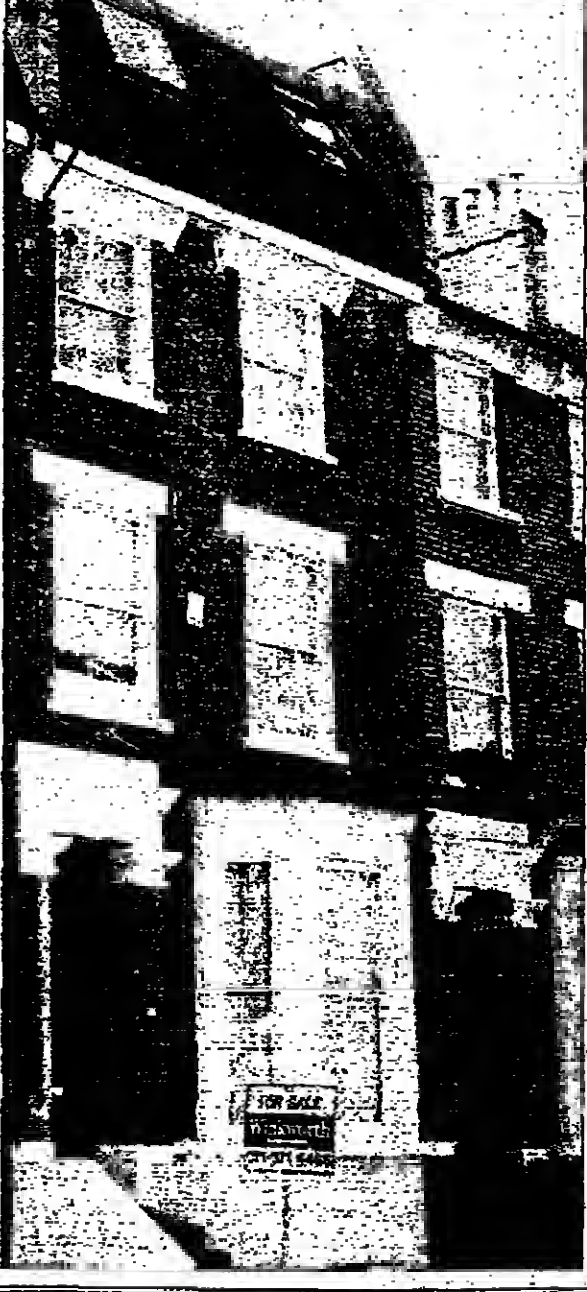
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Scotland (above): 3 Strathlone House, Buckie, Banff. Part of a 19th-century stone-built villa with lawned garden and views over the Moray Firth towards the hills of Sutherland and Caithness. Three bedrooms, two bathrooms (one en suite), lounge, fitted kitchen, utility/cloakroom. Gas central heating. Two garages. About £59,950 (GA Property Services, 0343 548861).



Yorkshire (above): Little Holtroyd, Preston-under-Scar, Leyburn. Double-fronted stone-built terrace period cottage situated in a secluded village, with walled garden and extensive views. Two bedrooms, bathroom, living room (with stone fireplace and exposed beams), dining room/kitchen and dairy. About £63,000 (GA Property Services, 0969 23451).



**FOR SALE**  
around £63,000  
London (left): Flat 5, 26 Westwick Gardens, W14. Second-floor conversion flat between Shepherds Bush Green and Hammersmith Broadway. One bedroom, bathroom, living room, fitted kitchen. About £66,950 (Winkworth, 071-371 4466).



Somerset (above): Pond View Cottage, Faulkland, nr Bath. Newly renovated stone-built cottage with walled garden, overlooking the village pond. Bedroom, shower-room, living room with beamed ceilings, pine fitted kitchen/dining room. About £60,000 (Allen & Harris, 0225 42511).

CHERYL TAYLOR



# And was Jerusalem builded here?

**Ruth Gledhill joins the worship in Britain's oldest liberal Jewish congregation**

**The Liberal Jewish Synagogue, 28 St John's Wood Road, London NW8 7HA (071-286 5181).**  
**SENIOR RABBI: David J. Goldberg.**  
**SERMON:** Analysis of the value of tradition in a post-modern age by Rabbi Helen Freeman. ★★★★★  
**ARCHITECTURE:** Extraordinary new octagonal synagogue, completed in 1991, stands behind the original 1926 colonnaded portico. ★★★★★  
**LITURGY:** Beautiful songs and readings from the sabbath and festival prayer book *Service of the Heart*. ★★★★★  
**MUSIC:** Professional singers sang Hebrew psalms and blessings. ★★★★★  
**AFTER-SERVICE CARE:** Small glasses of red wine or white grape juice and delicious *challah*, a plaited sabbath loaf. ★★★★★  
**SPIRITUAL HIGH:** An uplifting feast of words, light and music. ★★★★★



Rabbi Helen Freeman preaching at the St John's Wood synagogue, where ancient practices are adapted to the modern world

TO WALK past the Grace Gate of Lord's cricket ground and through the colonnaded portico of the UK's oldest liberal Jewish congregation, felt like stepping out of England and into a corner of Jerusalem. The sensation was explained in part by my neighbour Rita Adler, synagogue chairman, who told me the golden-white stone surrounding us had been quarried in Israel itself. Our service was taking place during *Chanukkah*, the eight-day festival of lights which commemorates a miracle more than 2,000 years ago, when a temple lamp burned for eight days on one day's supply of oil.

The Liberal Jewish Synagogue

was founded in 1911 and developed out of the earlier Jewish Religious Union, set up in an attempt to halt the drift away from organised religion by young Jews. Liberal Judaism has attempted to adapt ancient practices to the modern world. The movement was among the first to ordain women rabbis, and our sermon was preached by Rabbi Helen Freeman, a former speech therapist ordained in 1990 by Rabbi Julia Neuberger, one of the best-known rabbis in Britain.

Some of the men wore a *kipot*, a form of skull cap, but by no means all had covered their heads. Few of the women wore hats and we sat together with the men, unlike more orthodox synagogues, where women sit upstairs or at the back. Only those who would go on to the *almah* (reading platform) at the

front to take part in the ceremony wore both a *kipot* and a *tallit*, the fringed prayer shawl. About half the service was in Hebrew but the prayer book, printed with an English translation alongside, was not difficult to follow. "I make pleasant songs, and weave verses. Because my soul longs for You," we sang before the *Chanukkah* sabbath prayer. We moved into the *Shema*, a central prayer of Jewish liturgy which includes a confession of faith, and passages from the Pentateuch, or first five books of the Bible. "Hear, O Israel: the Lord is our God, the Lord is One," we said.

The service lasted about 90 minutes, half the length of a traditional orthodox service. The congregation grew to several hundred as the service progressed and we arrived at the readings from the Torah, the written law, synonymous with the Pentateuch. The reading, from Genesis, was in Hebrew. Rabbi Freeman read and translated into English as she went. We heard the story of Pharaoh's dreams.

**Edward Marriott persuades the past year to confess its sins and the new year to forecast its saving graces**

## VICES & VIRTUES

**1993 — 1st Pride:** My worst vice was helped in part by the egos of three leading Tories — Alan Clark, Margaret Thatcher and her former axeman Kenneth Baker — all of whom published their self-serving memoirs. Captain Keith Brown, who nearly died of shame after the faulty start to the Grand National, almost pushed pride to second place. Almost, but not quite.

**2nd Wrath:** I had a lot of angry people this year. John Major and Clare Linnier, oil-soaked Shetland islanders. Oddly, though, not a squeak from Jeremy Paxman, blackballed from the Garlick and Question Time clubs.

**3rd Avarice:** A good year. Libel awards showed no signs of calming down and Great Deceiver Roger Levitt was sentenced to 180 hours of considerate behaviour. Avarice pays.

**4th Gluttony:** I lost some fine gluttons — Anthony Burgess, whose appetite for work was surpassed only by James Hunt's greed for speed and Les Dawson's love of bad jokes. Happily, there's still Nicholas Soames, leading from his front.

**5th Lust:** I wish I could say I'd championed free love, but was not to be. Aids pressed on and consenting sadomasochists were jailed (quite a turn-on in itself).

**6th Sloth:** I failed to provide a haven for the lazy, the last of whom were swept from the BBC in John Birt's efficiency drive. Even Virginia Bottomley's queue-jumping at M&S was rumoured. The diligent triumphed: Randolph Fiennes and male au pairs.

**7th Envy:** Who was there to envy? No one called Graham, certainly: Taylor (football) and Gooch (cricket) went the way of all captains. And no Norman.

**1994 — 1st Justice:** Fear the worst: Michael Howard gets ever stronger. On the menu for this year, aside from more porridge, will be fine sentences for jumping red lights.

**2nd Fortitude:** No one will need more than John Major, for whom there'll be slings and arrows aplenty — June's European elections; the ambitions of Howard, Clarke and his coiffed sidekick. But persistence will pay off: Paxman will be elected to the Garlick.

**3rd Charity:** Oh, dear. Charity did well last year, but I hold out little hope now that the Princess of Wales has "retired". So my New Year's resolution is to find a new patron. Mr Blobby?

**4th Faith:** I'm pinning my hopes on faith: the first woman priest will be ordained shortly and the Bishop of Durham retires in July. His successor will believe, I confidently predict, in the Second (and Third) Coming, the Virgin Birth and the Three Kings. Praise be.

**5th Hope:** Seldom has there been more to hope for: peace at last in Ireland and the Balkans, our boys defeating the West Indies at the crease, some well-behaved aristocrats, a ban on any mention of Joanna Lumley, Michael Dobbs or Victor Meldrew.

**6th Prudence:** Regrettably, I am unlikely to be remembered for this. Mervyn Bragg is still sharpening his fangs and Michael Mates is still buying watches (probably from Gerald Ratner, who will bounce back).

**7th Temperance:** Who knows, it might be a quiet year for Kenneth Branagh, and Joan Collins might choose to spend a little more time with her family. But then again...

## Small faces, big screen

**Saturday morning picture shows are back in favour. Liz Bestic joined the queue**

The heart of east London on a dismal, rain-swept morning, seems an unlikely place for a renaissance of Saturday morning picture show nostalgia, but as the cinema doors fly open more than 50 children stage their very own stampee in the foyer of the Rio, Hackney, demanding their £1.50 tickets and popcorn.

Every week for the last six years in this once magnificent art deco building, hundreds of children have been coming to sit in a bug, darkened room to watch fantasies unfold on the big screen. And this is not just a London phenomenon.

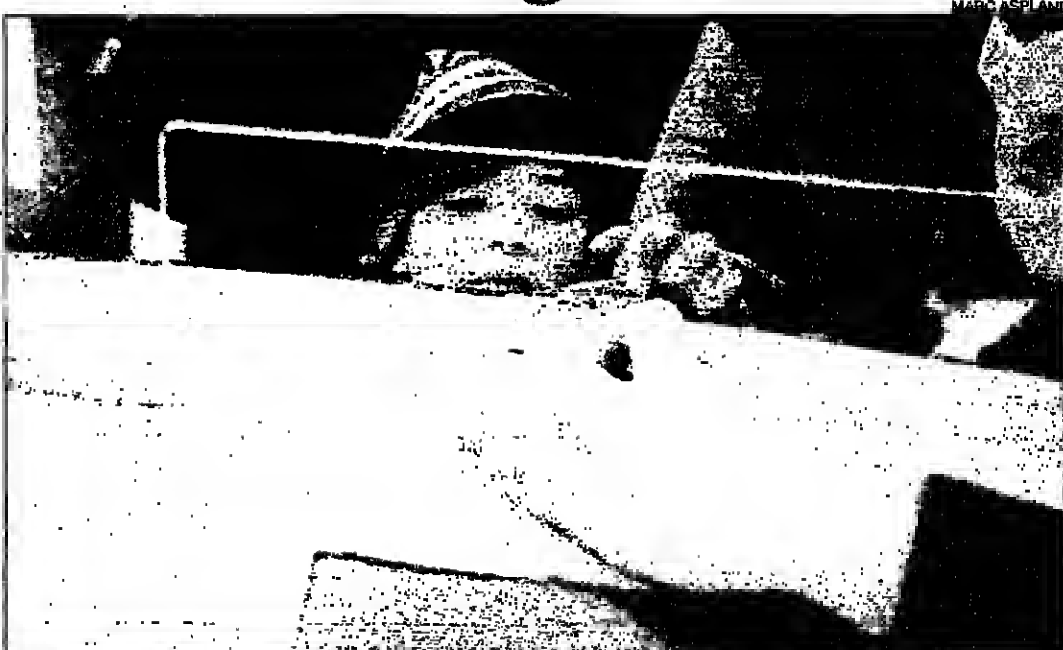
Arthur Rank, founder of the famous Rank Organisation, would have been delighted to see his brainchild, the Saturday Morning Picture Show, enjoy a revival across the country — although perhaps less pleased by the type of film on show.

His ambition to make religious films — Rank was a committed Methodist — was never fulfilled but his faith spurred him on to make films directed specifically at children. Each had a strong moral message which was meant to keep children off the streets and on the straight and narrow. His fervour and a great deal of his own cash helped to create the so-called "threepenny crush" of the Thirties and Forties, when hundreds of children watched entranced as their favourite characters came to life in moving pictures.

Back at the Rio, today's showing is *Footloose* — an unlikely tale of a latterday James Dean character who tries to buck the system in small-town America, encouraging his clean-cut peer group to embrace loud music, outrageous dancing and general misbehaviour — thus incurring the wrath of the local minister.

Dominic Ren, the cinema manager, says the kids love the kind of films that knock the system. "They can't stand worthy films; they like it when adults are shown to be wrong," he says.

"In the old days there used to be a serial — something like *Champion the Wonderhorse* — and there'd always be a huge cliffhanger ending where someone was about to fall into a river or something which made absolutely sure the kids came back the following week."



Top, today's cinema hour at the Rio and (above) how it was

picture shows. The Seventies saw an even faster changing society, and the rise of video. Nowadays lack of investment in the film industry means a dearth of shorter children's feature films — and the big blockbusters like *Jurassic Park* and this year's offering from the Disney stable, *Aladdin*, often have tricky distribution rights which often preclude smaller cinemas.

"It is very difficult to compete in a market which is flooded with film, video and children's TV," says Andrew Youdell of the British Film Institute. "The big multiplex cinemas have already captured a large proportion of the modern cinema-going audience aged between 12 and 16. They are seen as trendy places where maximum sales of popcorn and Coca-Cola are guaranteed," he says.

But for many younger children the experience of the big screen is a very special one, and if it is local it has even more appeal. "It's a trip out. It's getting away from home and there is something magical about that moment when the lights go down and the projector starts running. They get a real buzz out of it," Mr Ren says.

## Rabbits on the run

**When that cuddly bunny turns into a kicking monster, it is often abandoned**

IF BUGS Bunny were real he would have to have his teeth regularly clipped, and the Flopsy Bunnies would have had their fair share of abscesses and tummy bugs. Small children might adore the fiction, but most find the reality hard to care for.

"People think rabbits make good pets for children, especially as Christmas presents, but they are actually very delicate animals and need a lot of looking after," says Sarah Stevens, a 28-year-old computer validator who has spent most of her spare time over the past three years caring for up to 70 "unwanted presents" in her garden.

Ms Stevens got involved after finding a stray rabbit and being unable to trace its owner. "Rabbits can live for 15 years, as long as a dog or cat, but whereas dogs and cats are generally family pets, rabbits usually belong to one child," she says. "Children grow up and leave home, leaving a reluctant parent to care for their pet and that's when the rabbit is either abandoned or brought to someone like us."

Another snag is that small bunnies into great mammals grow. "Young children find a fully-grown rabbit both too big and too powerful to handle," she points out, "and they quickly lose interest in a pet they can't pick up. Most rabbits are kept singly, which, being sociable animals, they don't like it tends to make them neurotic and liable to kick and scratch with their large hind legs."

Some of her charges, like Roger, are too traumatised by past experi-

ence to socialise. Along with Polly, who has survived surgery for breast cancer, he will never be rehoused. Nor will Clover, a dwarf male whose buck teeth need constant clipping — one of many basic veterinary skills Ms Stevens has taught herself.

Her own rabbit, Toby, runs free-range in the home she shares with her husband, John, six gerbils, and four chinchillas in an indoor aviary. "Rabbits are clean and easy to house-train," she says. "They make good house pets, except they tend to chew through cables."

Her weekly shopping list includes two sacks of carrots, two sacks of dry feed, a crate of greens and a bale each of sawdust and straw. The bill comes to over £100 per month before vet's bills.

David Grant, veterinary director of one of the RSPCA's three hospitals, is blunt on the issue: "I can't imagine a worse present than a rabbit. The RSPCA's view is that people should not give any animals as presents. The particular problem with rabbits is that they are a lot of work; we have rabbits coming in here constantly that are ill or have strayed. Children end up giving the responsibility to their parents."

So what animals do make good pets for youngsters? "The easiest to look after is a goldfish," advises Mr Grant. "And cats are relatively easy, as are guinea pigs and hamsters. But it does depend on what sort of home you have and whether you have a garden."

JENNY MCCLEAN



Rescuer Sarah Stevens and one of the rabbits she has saved

### Children's events

#### LONDON

□ **Circus in the Great Hall:** The Big Top comes to Blackheath with jugglers, clowns, acrobats and high-wire artists in a Victorian-style circus. *Blackheath Concert Halls, 23 Lee Road, Blackheath, SE3 (081-463 0100). Today, tomorrow and Monday, 3pm and 7pm. £12.50, child £7.50.*

□ **Slava Polunin's Academy of Foibles:** The St Petersburg Theatre of Clowns in a spectacular show called *Yellow*. *Hackney Empire, 291 Mare Street, E8 (081-985 2424). Today, tomorrow, Jan 6-9, 7pm. Mar Sat, Jan 8, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm, 8pm, 10pm. £12.50, child £5 (8 years and upwards).*

□ **Noddy:** The adventures of Enid Blyton's kids and his friends. *Lyric, King Street, W6 (081-741 2311). Today, 11am, 2pm, Jan 4-7, 10.30am, 1.30pm, Jan 8, 11am, 2pm, Jan 9, 2pm, 4.30pm, Jan 11-14, 10.30am, 1.30pm, Jan 15, 11am, 2pm, Jan 16, 2pm. Until Jan 16, £10.25, child £7.25.*

#### BIRMINGHAM

□ **The Giraffe and the Pelly and Me:** Roald Dahl's story of Billy, who dreams of owning his own sweet shop, and makes friends with a giraffe, a pelican, a monkey and many other characters. *The Old Rep Theatre, Station Street (021-616 1519). Tues, Wed, 1.30pm, Fri, 1.30pm, next Sat, 2.30, 6.30pm. Until Jan 22, £6.50 child £4, family £18.*

□ **Annie:** The Broadway musical about the plucky orphan. *Everyman Theatre, Regent Street, Cheltenham (0242 572573). Until Jan 15, Today 2pm, 7pm, Mon-Sat, 2pm, 7pm. No performances Sunday. £12.50, £9.50, £5.50, child £2 less.*

#### KENT

□ **Leeds Castle:** Follow the treasure trail at Leeds Castle: commemorative certificate and prizes. *Leeds Castle, Maidstone (0622 78400). Today, first start at 11am, last start at 2pm. £5, accompanied children are free. Castle entry £1.50 extra.*

#### EDINBURGH

□ **Mr Boom in the Afternoon:** The musical spaceman and cosmic cult hero puts on in a show of fun, songs and games. *Traverse Theatre, 10 Cambridge Street (01-220 4349). Today, 3pm. £3.50.*

□ **NATIONAL TRUST WALKS:** These are walks all over the country suitable for families including: *Durham coast, Hawthorn: Dene Nature Reserve (091-581 3005). Tomorrow, 11am. £1.50, child free. Northumberland, Hadrian's Wall, Bardonia Mill (0434 344314). Housesteads car park, please book. Mon, 2pm. Free. Yorkshire, On the Rocks at Harrogate Crag, Hebden Bridge. (0422 84518). Tomorrow, 2pm.*

HEATHER ALSTON



Further exclusive extracts from Vivian Russell's book on the gardens of the French Riviera and the people who made them

## A garden of wonder created by a novice

Tom Parr and Claus Scheinert bought La Casella in 1983. It comprised an enclave of various cottages and a substantial villa on two and a half acres of land previously cultivated for jasmine. The house had been built in the 1960s by the architect Robert Streitz, a disciple of the Italian Emilio Terry, as a neo-classical replica of the Pavillon de Pompadour designed by Gabriel in Fontainebleau.

It was obvious from the start that Claus wasn't going to be masterminding the decoration of the interior, as Tom was the chairman of the prestigious design company Colefax and Fowler. Having given up his career as a Munich business man, Claus found himself "living on the Riviera with nothing to do".

For the better part of the next six years, Claus did nothing else but garden. He read all the books and went to see all the gardens. When he had seen enough to know what he wanted, the local nurseries were plundered. Because he had never gardened before, there were no preconceptions, no preferences, no prejudices. He wanted neither an English garden, a German garden nor a French garden. He didn't want lots of different plants, just plants that would perform — an exterior to match Tom's interior. Slowly a frame of Jamsian "verdant verdurousness" began to form around the ochre villa.

Most Riviera gardens were designed and planted for spring and autumn, but they had decided to live there all year round, so the challenge was how to make the garden look alive and interesting throughout the year. What Edith Wharton, the American author and garden lover, had called "a charm independent of the seasons, a thing of beauty all the year round".

With no overall plan in mind, Claus had "started on the terraces, one after the other. I looked around the gardens here to see what they had, and I planted that, because I knew it would do well." At Villa Noailles, in Grasse, he particularly admired the formality of the winter garden combined with the informality of a summer planting. He also found much inspiration at the

Chèvre d'Or. Pierre and Nicole Champin were generous with their plants advice, and jokingly referred to their garden, the Chèvre d'Or, as "the supermarket for the Claus Scheinert garden". After two years' hard labour on his "oeuvre", Nicole Champin sent the Association des Parcs Botaniques to La Casella. This group had been endlessly visiting the same five gardens for a number of years and wanted to see something new. Claus felt honoured. "Tom helped me with the colours, all pastels and no reds, oranges or yellows. You can quarrel about *rouge* in the heat — anyway, taste and colour I got from Tom, but the planting, I did."

The main bones of the garden are evergreen: lawns, cypress hedges and olive trees. Lesser bones are santolina, rosemary, lavender and acanthus, box and jasmine. Against this immutable background of green and silver turns the palette of flowers: plumbago, roses like "Schablikine" and "Lady Waterlow", echiums and romneyas, agapanthus and agurmes. Only the fruit trees, the oranges, lemons and cherries, present bold colour. The greenkeeper of the Opio golf course trims the lawns and paths to putting-green perfection.

In winter the garden remains formal and neatly clipped; in summer it is a fresh green, with extra colour provided by a spots-in-pots technique. All year round there are spots of seasonal frivolity: pansies in winter, white tulips in March, followed by lilies.

This is a garden made by a man who, ten years ago, did not know "the difference between a pansy and a tulip" — and didn't particularly want to know. Gradually, however, the garden crept into his life and, for many years, stole it. Its success is based on a few simple but essential principles and priorities. "What I appreciate are local plants, in silvers, blues, whites and greens, which look good all year round. I stick to what I have and keep it healthy. If you extend too much, the gardeners have trouble keeping it up." He has now been asked by several friends to help with what is termed "le style Claus Scheinert", which he defines as convenience and suitability.



The spots-in-pots idea at La Casella was inspired by the garden of an Italian villa. Plumbago is grown in containers, counterpointing the clipped lavender, box and santolina

Chemin du Paradis, a narrow path that would test the agility of an alpine goat, leads to an extraordinary gem of a garden hugging the mountainside in the clouds above Grasse. Here, in a little house built originally for the use of shepherds during the summer transhumance of sheep from the scorched pastures of the plains to higher, cooler meadows, lives Bruno Goris.

The place, now called L'Oustaou dei Balles, was discovered after the war by Bruno's grandfather. Exhausted by his efforts in North Africa and his time in the concentration camps, he took early retirement from the Belgian army and came to Grasse to convalesce. While taking a constitutional *promenade* on the hills, he came upon a terraced grove of 300 orange trees and 45 olives, and was so seduced by the view that he bought the land.

He lost all but one of his orange trees in the catastrophic winter of 1956, but lived there all year round from 1957 onwards, cultivating his remaining olives. Bruno and his two brothers came for holidays, somewhat reluctantly, as the grandfather was difficult and authoritarian. "I am told," Bruno says, grinning, "that we resemble each other more and more."

Towards the end of his life, when he could no longer manage the stairway to "paradise", the grandfather moved to the village and gave Bruno his gardening tools. When Bruno's parents died within two years of each other, Bruno took over the little house on the hill.

In the beginning, he did odd jobs on the Côte d'Azur, then, being an excellent cook, he worked in a restaurant, and there met Norah Warren's great friend Pippa Irwin. She was a customer, and they would talk about plants until late in

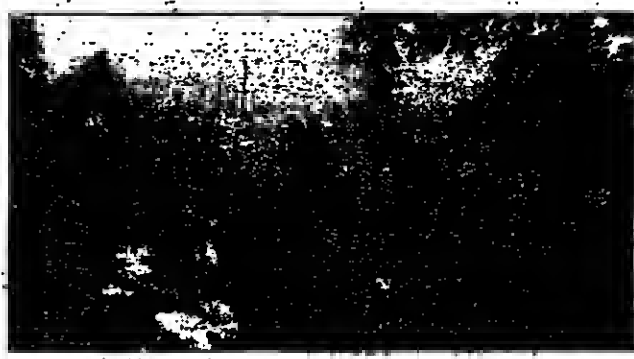
the evening. Bruno absorbed much knowledge from their talks, and he now looks after the gardens at Villa Roquebrune, Norah Warren's former home.

Bruno's garden has achieved so many dimensions that it is easy to forget that the infrastructure supporting this luxurious hillside is only a terraced hilly terrain. The garden began not as a passion but as a garden "pour mes besoins", which meant a potager and fruit trees. The first thing he did, however, was to replace the lime tree traditionally planted in front of old houses, which his grandfather, believing it attracted mosquitoes, had felled.

After the lime, he planted fruit trees: cherries, apricots and plums, positioned for easy pollination. The garden is almost ideally situated, facing southeast, protected from the mistral, and well watered by the proximity of the 4500ft mountain across the valley, which traps the clouds, producing rain and *petits vents* coulis. However, nothing is ever perfect, and chilly gales rush down the mountain gorges several times a year, cutting down the taller, more fragile plants.

Bruno had read in an old book that *Ostrya carpinifolia* is better suited to the Mediterranean than hornbeam, so up went the ostrya instead in the potager. It was divided into four compartments, according to traditional rotation

## Floral stairway to paradise



Campanula and the rose "Cecile Brunner" growing at 800ft

methods, and protected from a whistling east wind by a hedge of rosemary. The demands of the household kitchen soon exceeded the capacity of the first terrace alone, so this was turned into an area for fast-cropping salads and tomatoes, while the terrace below was devoted to the slower crops — potatoes, onions, strawberries, peas and beans. Bruno is presently on his third potager terrace, planted with artichokes, gooseberries, dahlias and flowers for the house. There is still room for another six terraces should he need them — which he surely will.

Above the potager, yet another six terraces rise up the hill. There was nothing but olive trees and grass initially, and I found I couldn't mow neatly along the wall, so I began by dividing a large clump of *stachys* a client had discarded and planted bits of it all along the wall so as not to damage the mower," Bruno says. "Then I put in an abutment and other bits and pieces to create the

base of the olives, which, otherwise would have choked on grass. The borders are so wide now that the path is barely penetrable. On the top terrace I kept a large patch of grass as a counterpoint of grass as a counterpoint to all this foliage."

As a plantsman and a colourist, Bruno is both sensitive and sensible about colours. Like all creative artists, however, he is always evolving and widening the rather narrow confines of "good taste", which has static, if not diminishing returns.

The "taste war" is most often fought over the use of colour in a garden. People who are happy to paint their dining-rooms bright yellow or decorate their homes with reds or oranges will banish them from the garden. "I was afraid to use colour in the beginning," he says. "I'd always loved colour, but thought it was too violent. First came the yellow abutment, a plant I like very much, and little by little began to weave in plants like phloxes and geraniums. There were plants that I found, was given, or looked for to complete the garden, and I began to weave them in, adding others to complete the range."

Bruno's great passion is old-fashioned roses. "I would start with a rose and associate three plants around it to lighten or complement it. There was one area that was supposed to be pink and white, but other things crept in among them.

Red got in there with the *Rosa ebinensis* semi-guinea and *Grossa du Duplitz*, which I love very much, so a range of reds came into it."

Interspersed everywhere are the silvers and the violaceous colours — purplish blues which, with the silver foliage, make the transitions.

Bruno created his garden by trying out plants that he liked, adopting an impressionistic or pointillistic approach to accommodate the ranges of colour. The further you get from the house, the more striking and original are the colour combinations — not the least of which is "Rose Hénri". Still at the "preparatory stage" it is a homage to the sun in orange and yellow. The spiky plants — the agaves, aloes, palms and cacti — have no place here, but he grows many "exotics", notably the holboellia, which everyone expected to fail but which even survived the severe frosts of 1993.

Bruno uses little fertiliser on his plants, so they take a few years to establish, and the humus problem is eased by letting the leaves drop off — except those with black spot or mildew.

Already something of a folkloric figure, inseparable from either his straw hat or his dog Cleome, Bruno can be found every year at the "Faire des Plantes" in Nice. There he displays his collection of locally bred *Nabomand* roses, his special interest. His love and knowledge of all plants, his capacity for listening to his clients' wishes, and treating each garden on its own merits, have made Bruno Goris the most sought-after gardener on the Riviera.

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### WEEKEND TIPS

- In very cold weather, Francesca Greenoak writes, bring into temporary shelter any of your outdoor winter displays that are planted in portable pots, so that the roots do not freeze.
- As mail-order seeds arrive, file them in a biscuit box or similar container in order of sowing.
- Begin to take cuttings of late-flowering chrysanthemums.
- Repeat any greenhouse plants that have congested and pot-bound roots.
- Sow *Streptocarpus*, *brodiaea* and *calceolaria* in a propagator set at 13C/55F.
- Prune weak and crossing branches from gooseberry bushes, and mulch with well-rotted manure or rough compost.

### LADIES

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A bright, beautiful, successful woman (4















## Grave news as Phoebe kicks the feed bucket

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

A farm is a very useful thing to have at Christmas. In fact, my observant brother-in-law has often remarked at great family gatherings that if I did not have a farm to escape to I would have to invent one.

The truth is that by mid-afternoon on Christmas Day, when the dusk is beginning to fall, the family have eaten enough fodder to fatten a prize bull and the house is deep enough in wrapping paper to provide a decent bed for a flock of sheep, nothing is more welcome than an excuse to feed the livestock. On a large farm it is no doubt a chore, but if you are organised, you can whip round in 30 minutes and then return refreshed to eat and drink some more. It is one of the few days in the year when the pigs' eating habits are eclipsed.

This year we had a crisp, clear and frosty Christmas Day and my

regular afternoon round would have been a pleasure were it not for the large black shadow that has been hanging over us this Christmas. Last weekend, while the crowds were gathering for our Nativty play, the Three Kings were slipping on their dressing gowns and children tying tea-cloths round their heads, our large black sow, Phoebe, was dying. Of course, the show went on and I dashed from improvised stage to sty to attend the vet. In retrospect, I should have suspected something the night before when the feed-bowl was not quite empty. Phoebe was probably the greediest pig we have ever raised, and her obsession with food was such that she would assume the slight-

est sound to be a harbinger of fodder. Certainly, it was not possible to open the back door of the house without her beginning to squeal, even if she had been fed 20 minutes previously. Having known her as a robust animal all her life, I was sad to see the life ebb from her; and it was equally confusing for her litter of piglets, who could not understand why the ever-providing mother had suddenly run dry.

The vet came twice and did his best but it was clear that she was not going to live. I knew an old horseman who swore he could take one look at a sick horse and know its chances of survival. "You can smell death on a horse," he said, but I hardly believed him



then. I do now. Farmers get to know their stock so well that they can read them like a book. Perhaps, had I not been so preoccupied with the Nativty play, I might have read between the lines

and spotted earlier that the pig was not well.

We gave her a grim little burial, the knacker-man not being interested in pig-meat. Robert and I took our spades and dug a grave in

what was thankfully easily dug, sandy soil. In none of the books I have read is there ever any praise for the skills of the grave-digger, but digging a decent hole is no mean task. I went to a country funeral a few weeks ago and, never being able to resist the temptation to kick the soil with the toe of my foot to see "what sort of land that be", I glanced down the perfectly shaped hole dug out of the most vicious, sticky and weighty clay. Digging that hole was no five-minute job for a boy.

But our grave-digging had its lighter moments. "Shall we drop her in Viking-style," suggested Robert, but I did not want to think of old Phoebe standing to attention six feet under. Instead, we dug a little deeper than we planned; we did not want to fill the hole and find we had trotters still waving in the air. And with the somewhat cheering thought from Robert that

not many farm animals are lucky enough to die in their sleep, our grim little procession began.

The cold rain, carried on a northerly wind, poured on us as we dragged the dead pig onto our sledge and hauled her up the farm. Her litter of seven did not even give her a glance as we pulled her out of the sty past them; neither did Alice, her mother, give her even a nod of recognition as we limbered past. Phoebe was a good old pig, a fine mother to five litters, and we shall miss her.

It is said, superstitiously, that to ensure good fortune for the coming year, the last to leave the household in the old year must be black, and first thing over the threshold at the beginning of the new must be black as well. We have had our black departure and, as you read this, will be looking hard for the black sign that tells us there is a more fortunate year ahead.

## Master of country living



Sir Edwin Lutyens (above) died 50 years ago today. Derwent May reviews the architect's work

Sir Edwin Lutyens left behind him an English countryside on which he had impressed his mark far and wide. Because of him and his collaborator, the great gardener Gertrude Jekyll (pronounced Jee-kill), a whole style of country house and garden has become popular.

In his hands, the traditional small, rustic country house found in places such as Surrey took on a new romantic richness and individuality—and a new spaciousness and grandeur inside.

As for the gardens, according to one historian, "the style that Lutyens and Jekyll arrived at, of romantically luxuriant planting within a firm architectural framework of terraces and garden 'rooms', is still the ideal towards which most gardeners strive". We all know them, those houses of deep porticos and high gables,



Horwood, the house in Hertfordshire Lutyens built for his mother-in-law. His wife, Lady Emily Lytton, later became a devoted follower of Krishnamurti.

standing among low walls, rose-laden pergolas and multi-coloured herbaceous borders.

Lutyens's father was an unsuccessful painter who was a friend of the artist of the Highlands, Edwin Landseer—which is how young Ned (as he was called) got his Christian names. He was not trained as an architect as today. As a boy, he wandered alone

through the Surrey countryside, looking at old buildings and watching new ones being built for prosperous landowners.

In 1885, when he was 16, he went to the South Kensington School of Art in London to study architecture, but he did not bother to finish the course: his head was full of his own ideas.

He became an apprentice in an architect's office, and when he was 20 he was invited to build a nine-bedroom house called Crooksbury, near Farnham, Surrey. He took on an old builder as an assistant—and he admitted later that he was so nervous while the house was being built that he did not dare visit it until the workmen had gone home.

From then on he never looked back. Some of the 50 or so country houses he built are now open to the public between April and October, and New Year's Day might be a good moment to plan a few visits in your new diary (details are given below).

Lutyens's meeting with Gertrude Jekyll also took place when he was 20. She was a short, stumpy woman, and he called her "Bumps", while to his own children she became "Aunt Bumps". Lutyens was a shy man, and even when he became a figure in society he concealed his awkwardness behind schoolboyish jokes and puns, such as his story of the bishop who asked his housekeeper for "ovine" bowels on toast for breakfast.

One of his finest early houses is Goddards, which is owned by a society of admirers, the Lutyens Trust. It stands on Abinger Common in Surrey, where the air sweeps up from the Weald. Outside, it has deep porches, brick-mullioned windows and soaring chimneys; inside, there is a dramatic "common room", with arched wooden beams and dainty bays. The paved Jekyll garden of 1899 has been kept much as it was.

Lutyens married Lady Emily Lytton, the daughter of the Viceroy of India. The story of this sad marriage is told with wonderful sensitivity by Mary Lutyens, his daughter, in her book *Edwin Lutyens* (the Black Swan paperback is available in many cut-price bookshops). It is the story of a deep love affair turning into sexual misery for both of them, with Emily eventually finding fulfilment in her devotion to the



Castle Drogo in Devon, the last castle to have been built in Britain. Below: the castle scullery

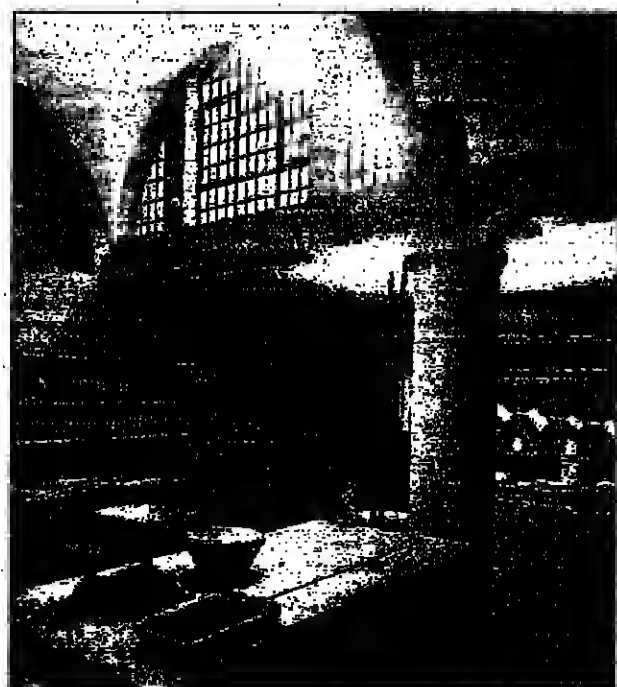
Indian spiritual teacher Krishnamurti.

Early in their marriage, Ned built a small gabled house for his mother-in-law—Horwood, near the Lytton family home at Knebworth in Hertfordshire. Mary Lutyens has described the characteristic "sense of spaciousness" that Lutyens gave the house, its wide staircase lit by a glass roof on the first floor landing, and carpeted in apple-green.

About 1905, Lutyens began to admire the classical sense of structure more, and some of his houses took a new turn. He called it, typically, his "Wrenaissance". Great Maytham in Kent is like an ornate Palladian mansion in purple and blue-grey brick, with a splendid pillared hall, and a dining-room with pilastered niches. Great Dixter in Sussex is, by contrast, a half-timbered house with a magnificent hammer-beam hall.

Then there are two spectacular houses owned by the National Trust. Lindisfarne Castle on Holy Island, Northumberland, is a former fort which Lutyens riddled with shadowy rooms breathing an air of ancient mystery. Castle Drogo in Devon is the last castle to have been built in Britain—a wild-looking yet profoundly ordered creation in granite that looks down on the wooded gorge of the Teign.

Lutyens went on from country houses to many other kinds of work. In London, there is the Cenotaph in Whitehall, of



which he was so proud: the jewel-like Midland Bank building in Piccadilly, echoing Wren's St James's church next door; and the square in Hampstead Garden Suburb where St Jude's church soars high but the low cornice draws it into friendship with the houses all round. In India there is New Delhi and the great Viceroy's House.

Yet Lutyens's country houses are the ones that become more desirable every year. In an age that has rejected plainness only to embrace the tinsel glamour of post-modernism, they seem to

show how deep and satisfying romantic architecture can be in the hands of a quirky genius.

● *Goddards, Abinger Common, Dorking, Surrey RH5 6JH (0206 720467 for appointments). The Lutyens Trust arranges visits to houses not usually open to the public—details from the membership secretary at Goddards, Knebworth House (with Jekyll garden), Stevenage, Herts (0438 812561). Great Maytham Hall, Robenden, Kent (details 071-836-1824). Great Dixter, Northiam, E. Sussex (0232 253160). Lindisfarne Castle, Holy Island, Northumberland (0239 86244). Castle Drogo, Drewsteignton, Devon (0649 433306).*

### Feather report



The pied wagtail "employs" a meeker bird on his patch

## Wagtail with winning ways

Birds do not help each other much. Of course, adult birds feed their young, and some male birds feed their mates on the nest, but the general rule is "Every bird for itself". The pied wagtail is very unusual in that some of the males have a servant in winter.

Most people are familiar with the pied or water wagtail—the little black-and-white bird with a long tail that bounces up and down all the time. It feeds on lawns and roads and roof-tops, as well as at the water's edge, where it will sometimes wade in. Many males guard a "territory" in winter, particularly along rivers, where each bird patrols his own stretch of bank looking for washed-up food.

However, it is sometimes hard to keep intruders out of the territory, and quite often the owner will allow a less dominant bird—a female, or a first-winter male—to live in the territory with him. It helps him drive intruders out, and is allowed to pick up any food surplus to the owner's requirements. In ornithological jargon, it is a satellite.

The pied wagtail has other interesting territorial habits. Its favourite food is the midges that swarm on parts of cow-dung, and in a field with many cows there may be quite a gathering of the birds. However, in the sunshine of the middle of the day, when the midges are swarming energetically, each of the pied wagtails will guard its own pat, as though it were its own table in a restaurant. In the cool of the evening, when the midges have gone, the birds abandon their miniature territories, and

hock together to share the search for food.

The conversion of so many farms to unimproved arable land in eastern England has led to a drop in the number of pied wagtails there. It is not only the reduction in the number of cattle, but also the disappearance of farm ponds that has affected them.

However, they have increased in Wales and north-west England, and are perhaps more birds of the upland than they used to be. You find them nesting in stone walls in Scotland and the Lake District, as well as in all sorts of bizarre holes, like the glove-pockets of abandoned cars.

On the roads, they often pick up the insects hit by cars, as well as caterpillars that fall off overhanging trees. They run at their prey, giving a particularly vigorous wag of their tail at the end of each sprint.

They have a brisk, babbling song, heard in the spring and again briefly in the autumn, while their regular call-note is quite distinctive... a loud "chissick". They have the most undulating flight of all the British birds—and it is always a good moment for me when one comes bouncing through the air, making that call, with each dip-and-rise, and settles with a flourish of its tail on the garage roof.

### DERWENT MAY

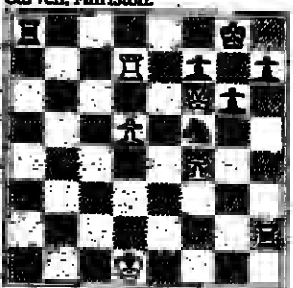
● *What's about Birds?* - Check gull rooks on reservoirs and lakes for Iceland and glaucous gulls. *Twitchee* - adult ivory gull feeding on a dead seal on North Uist. *Outer Hebrides* - hoopoes wintering at Taverham, Norfolk. *Details from Birdline*. (089) 700222. Calls cost 3p a minute cheap rate, 45p at all other times.

### By Raymond Keene

Today's position is from the game Susan - Hodgson, Hastings Premier 1991. The White King is trapped on the back rank. Can you see how Black forced a decisive material gain?

Send your answers on a postcard with your name and address to: *The Times*, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9QN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine book. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Solution to December 18's competition: 1 Qg5



### By Philip Howard

**DOXASTIC**  
a. Pursuing young women  
b. To do with opinion  
c. Seeming

**ELDRITCH**  
a. Weird, frightful  
b. The oldest  
c. Elderberry wine

**ADVENTITIOUS**  
a. Merchant adventuring  
b. Taking place in December  
c. Accidental

**BASTO**  
a. A Spanish foot-cane  
b. Enough! Silence!  
c. The ace of clubs

Answers on page 13

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A CHANNEL HOPPER'S GUIDE TO THE WEEK'S ● TV AND RADIO

THE TIMES

SEVEN DAYS TV  
10-23

SEVEN DAYS RADIO  
24-27

# VISION

SATURDAY 1 - FRIDAY 7 JANUARY 1994

**3** Amazing  
New Year  
Sayle

**5** Coming  
soon: Welsh  
soap (with  
subtitles)

**6** Mike  
McShane  
as Damon  
Runyon

**7** Pick of  
the week's  
films





